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SOME ASPECTS OF URBANISTICS*

Eugene Van Cleef
The Ohio State University

The "geography of cities," "urban geography," and other such expressions associated with the phenomenon known as the city, fail to reveal the more or less kaleidoscopic behavior of cities. Too often they imply largely description. The title of the Italian serial publication *Urbanistica*[1] which treats with both architectural and planning aspects of cities around the world, gave rise to an idea for a new term. Urbanistica means "the technique of city planning." By substituting "s" for the ending letter "a" in Urbanistica the word "Urbanistics" is derived, a word which conveys a sense of vigorous action and fulfills the desirability of an expression which truly reflects the spirit of the field of urbanism which in the last decade or two has attracted the attention of more geographers than in any previous period in the history of the science. To be sure, "Urbanistics" is an all-inclusive term. But the geographer who would concentrate his attention upon the geographic without taking into consideration the non-geographic, courts trouble.

The focus of attention upon cities by American geographers is so recent, the year of its beginning can be pinpointed. F. V. Emerson's "Geographic Interpretation of New York City," derived from his Ph.D. thesis written at the University of Chicago and published in 1908–09,[2] may be viewed as the first in the recent period of urban geographic research in the United States.

"Much water has run over the dam," figuratively speaking, during the nearly 50 years which have since elapsed, years which have witnessed many changes in the approach to urban studies and in the facets treated. In the early years, the physical aspects of the landscape with some interpretation of the relation of human activities to their physical setting was the dominant note. Detailed consideration of land uses, elements of planning, aerial photography as an implement for collecting data, local transportation including parking problems, regional location of industries within cities, and still other phases of Urbanistics, were largely in a nebulous state. Attempts in this country to apply mathematical procedures to urban studies, other than problems of population growth or the recording of production and trade figures, were still practically nil. In more recent years, Ullman, Harris, Christaller, Von Thünen, and a few others, both here and abroad, have contributed to the mathematical approach, but much yet remains to be done in this realm.

Although cities as a whole possess a degree of stability, they are also marked by considerable uncertainty. This is both a factor of interest, and a condition which can be disconcerting. Henry Churchill has well said, "The City is the People,"[3] which is another way of saying, cities consist of variables.

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*Based upon an invitational address before the autumn dinner meeting of the East Lakes Division of the AAG, Nov. 2, 1956, Columbus, Ohio.

[1] *Urbanistica*, Rivista Trimestrale dell'Instituto Nazionale di Urbanistica, Roma, Italy.

[2] F. V. Emerson, "A Geographic Interpretation of New York City," *Bull.*, Amer. Geog. Soc., Vol. 40 (1908), pp. 587–612, 726–738; Vol. 41 (1909), pp. 3–21.

[3] Henry S. Churchill, *The City is the People*, Reynal and Hitchcock, Inc., N. Y., 1945.

Much interest has been expressed for many decades in the rate of population growth. Cities have suffered because of the difficulty in predicting with accuracy their population growth and making proper preparations to meet the consequences. Curves have been drawn depicting the past, and projected to the year 2000. Some 25 years ago, Pearl and Reed of Johns Hopkins University, Thompson and Whelpton of the Scripps Foundation, and others drafted curves. These research workers made allowances for wars and other catastrophic disturbances, usually assuming such phenomena would have a slowing up effect upon the birthrate. Their curves have fallen far short of reality. For example, these men did not anticipate that war, instead of reducing the birthrate, would yield a record breaking rate. The current annual net gain in population for the nation is about 2.5 million persons. At this rate our population should reach about 220 million by 1975. The experts, in 1932, guessed it would range between a possible minimum of 130 million, and a maximum of 175 million.

Parenthetically, it is worth remembering that although estimates of our future population are desirable, consideration of population *quality* is important too. Cities may boast of high rates of population growth, but if the added people dilute the quality already established, as is often the case in the process of industrialization, the progress of that community is certain to be retarded as far as its livability is concerned.

Technological developments have likewise made forecasts inaccurate. When streets and avenues in the horse and buggy days were laid out, the automobile was hardly dreamed of and air transportation as it is known now was only a fantasy in the minds of a scant few. The realm of electronics, if thought of at all, was something for the indefinite future. Mass production principles and their probable effect upon the physical forms of industrial plants were slow in crystallizing. The shift from structures upon small sites to low buildings upon extensive areas seems neither to have been anticipated nor even considered upon a theoretical basis. A vast increase in the number of automobiles, and limited parking facilities in downtown areas, generated the concentrated shopping center, although the latter, on a limited scale, had been advocated by city planners many years before. Shopping centers, in turn, encouraged further expansion of cities. It is not necessary to run the gamut of all the revolutionary changes that have taken place during the past century. The point of emphasis is the tremendous impact of new ideas upon the physical evolution of our cities.

Another non-predictable circumstance which should be recognized is the temperament of the individual. Mr. X of any city suddenly decides to launch himself upon a manufacturing career. Without making a survey to determine the outlook for his proposed enterprise, he builds a plant. He is convinced on a "hunch," or from observing that the commodity which interests him is in considerable demand, that he too can produce the item and sell it. He has made no study of such things as accessibility of raw materials, power and labor costs, freight rates, quality of site, and many other matters ordinarily considered by geographers, economists and others, as essential parts of wise business procedure. When pressed for a reason for having launched his business in the chosen city, he states that the city has been his home; he likes it; he refuses to leave; the city has been "good to him," and so this is the logical place in which to erect a plant. In the city of Columbus, nearly 60% of its industries, some of them of the service type rather than manufacturing establishments, were founded in the manner just noted.[4]

The business flourishes. The geographer explains its origin on a geographic basis, only to learn later the geographic had nothing to do with the initial establishment. Of course, the *success* of the industry may well have been due

[4] An estimate by Dr. Henry Hunker of The Ohio State University, based upon his investigation of the origin of industries in Columbus, Ohio.

in large part to the geographic setting. Management alone can rarely account for survival. Nevertheless, the fact that the launching of the business was unrelated to geographic conditions, and its subsequent success due in part to the coincidence of favorable geographic conditions, is a situation the geographer cannot afford to ignore.

It is also true that whereas geographic circumstances may have accounted for the initial rise of a plant, in some instances those conditions no longer play a role. Yet the industry flourishes. This may come about through preferential freight rates or laws particularly favorable to the given industry. The same type of shift may be applicable to entire communities. Some years ago, a young man chose as his topic for a master's thesis, the geography of a small center in Massachusetts. Upon completion of his thesis he declared it had been a total failure because he had found that the geographic circumstances which favored the origin and rise of the city no longer had application. In fact, current activities seemed to be operating in the face of seemingly adverse geographic conditions. Obviously, his negative findings were not to be interpreted as a failure, but rather as symbolic of the cautions which geographers need to employ when investigating urban situations.

Reference has been made to freight rates as a factor in industrial location. Space does not permit the discussion of many instances of the effect of freight rates, particularly of a preferential order, upon the economic location of cities. Preferential rates at the beginning of the century favoring Minneapolis, deprived Duluth of leadership in the flour milling industry and checked the development of its retail merchandising business. Preferential railroad services in favor of several competitive Ohio cities slowed the progress of Columbus, Ohio. The "Pittsburgh plus" program involving arbitrary freight charges on steel prevented some steel centers in the upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes regions from enjoying the advantages which they had a right to expect by virtue of their proximity to certain markets.

Currently, as the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Waterway improvement is about to become a reality, cities in the Great Lakes region and nearby will need to consider possible re-orientation. For some cities the effect of the improved way to the sea will mean great economic gain, and for others it is conceivable some loss will be felt. Just what the detailed consequences will be is uncertain. Aside from speculation, however, it is almost certain that the seaway will mean the equivalent of a change in location for most cities because of new freight rate relationships.

Looking ahead a bit, some cities no doubt will gain and others will lose as commercial aviation speeds develop. The airplane has already, in a sense, dislocated many cities. Distances between cities were reduced in terms of time with the advent of the railroad era and again during the period of development of the motor vehicle and good roads. But the effect of these transportation devices has been as nothing compared with the current and prospective influence of air transport.

When speeds of 600 to 1,000 miles per hour, or even greater, become common, the cities of mid-America, for example, will be only a matter of three to five hours from those of northwestern Europe and correspondingly close to cities on other continents. The shops on Regent Street in London, along the Avenue de L'Opera in Paris or on Charlottenburg Chausee in Berlin, will have locations virtually equivalent to High Street in Columbus, or State Street in Chicago, or Woodward Avenue in Detroit. This means a new competitive situation which must be met. To be sure, freight costs will tend to off-set slightly the time-distance element, but they will hardly negate them entirely.

What is ahead because of the helicopter, affords abundant speculation. The possible effect on the decentralization of population is an element of considerable concern. The distribution of peoples throughout the countryside probably will be facilitated, thus reducing the size of larger cities and producing an invasion of agricultural lands by persons who will earn their living in urban centers. On the other hand, it is also conceivable that merchants in the larger urban centers will receive even more patronage at the expense of small businesses located in satellite centers. While the consequence of this action could be an even greater growth of retail merchant establishments in the larger centers as the resident population become smaller, the population of smaller centers in the hinterland could well increase. Patterns of the latter could change too, as less business is transacted locally.

Perhaps enough has been said concerning aerial flight in relation to cities to point up the fact that in all probability our urban centers are headed for greater economic and physical changes, and that geographers and others who become associated with problems in Urbanistics will be called upon to muster an exceptionally high order of intelligence and ingenuity to solve them.

Another phase of Urbanistics which deserves close attention is what for the lack of a better term may be called the "leap-frog effect." In the course of the areal expansion of our cities, residential districts which in their prime might have been classified as *exclusive* or high middle class have ultimately deteriorated as business has encroached. This has led the residents who could afford to do so, to move beyond the outer limits of their current neighborhood to begin a new well-maintained neighborhood. Here they remained until once more business impinged, forcing them to leap again. And so, without plan or other control, the areas of our cities have expanded, and along with this action there has been a mixing of residential and numerous other land uses reducing the livability of a considerable portion of the community.

In the decentralizing action, little if any geographic influence has been exerted. In fact, the imprint of scientific thought is virtually non-existent and any interpretations which are made need to be accompanied by maximum caution. There are those who suggest this leap-frog procedure be replaced by controls. But the matter is not so simple. Residences grow old, deteriorate, and become outmoded. Their value declines accordingly. Few families at the intermediate and lower economic levels can afford indefinitely to *maintain* their property beyond the application of an occasional coat of paint and making of secondary repairs. The time ultimately arrives when property values decline to exceedingly low levels, unless through accidental circumstances the site attains a high value because of potentialities for new uses. Of course, rarely can one predict with dependability, value changes, particularly changes upward. Actually, many old structures should be torn down, but again their owners ordinarily cannot afford this undertaking. At this point, perhaps society should step in. But participation by the government is certain to be interpreted as socialistic. Any public controls which involve the issuance of directives to individuals, generally are anathema to most persons. Nevertheless, if urban development is to be scientific, involving as it does first and foremost, effective use of the land, then there must be some type of regulation. And when reference is made to effective land use, there is meant not only the interest of the individual owner, but an order of use, which, while hopefully satisfying the owner, will also be advantageous to the community.

Underlying all of the various problems associated with Urbanistics, it seems at least three questions are involved. (1) What kind of city do people desire? (2) Are these desires feasible? (3) How much will it cost to bring them to fruition? Here only the first question is considered, and then only one aspect, but one which seems of critical importance, namely, the esthetic.

Many persons are indifferent to the value of the esthetic in urban development. It is to be hoped geographers will not shy off from serious consideration of this matter, for it most certainly involves land use and no specialist has greater responsibility for the solution of land use problems than does the geographer. A city, after all, is part and parcel of the landscape and has a third dimension. It is the landscape modified by man. And just as there are beautiful and ugly natural landscapes, so can there be beautiful and ugly modifications. Man can choose between these modifications. The esthetic includes not only parks, playgrounds, boulevards, and other ornamented public properties, but the maintenance of neat grounds surrounding both residential and business properties, an attractive urban street pattern, well spaced buildings, some architectural regulation, smoke and noise control, intelligent zoning, and such other phases of the urban structure which meet the minimum requirements of functions and livability, and also promote a degree of pride and inspiration among the citizenry.

The United States Supreme Court, in a decision relative to the constitutionality of the Urban Development Act for the District of Columbia, gave important recognition to the role of the esthetic in the development of a city when it said with reference to the importance of the esthetic in planning: . . . "The concept of the public welfare is broad and inclusive. . . . The values it represents are spiritual as well as physical, aesthetic as well as monetary. It is within the power of the legislature to determine that the community should be beautiful as well as healthy, spacious as well as clean, well balanced as well as carefully patrolled."[5]

The argument in favor of the esthetic is sometimes condemned even by geographers, as academic, unrealistic, non-geographic or inconsequential. This disappointing attitude, so often expressed by intelligent persons, some of whom occasionally are prominent on lists of civic leaders, is certainly "unrealistic," to use their own word. World-wide experience belies their claims. Stettin, Helsinki, Stockholm, Gdynia and many other centers offer vivid evidence of the practicability of combining business and beauty.

The Executive Director, Dennis O'Harrow, of the American Society of Planning Officials, in his September 1956 *Newsletter*, effectively points up a growing menace in our urban layouts when he makes the following statement quoted from his editorial under the heading "Clearings in *Prefab* Jungles:"

"Surrounding every major city and most smaller cities, are carefully engineered housing developments, monotonous reaches of cubicles flowing irresistibly over every acre in sight, flooding farm lands, flattening trees. This, I believe is even more disheartening than the loss of established public open spaces.

"Why do we have this annihilation of openness? . . . . . .

"Perhaps we have persuaded ourselves that all parks and open spaces are out of date, now that each of us has, or hopes to have, his own private park. Certainly, if we do not have open spaces, we breed generations who know nothing of their beauty and necessity, and who may be even more callous than we.

"Then, too, I have often thought of the peculiar religion we all seem to have. I speak of our national belief that glorifies the remains of the dead above the happiness of the living. A cemetery is sacred above all things, holiest of holies. A park is a reservation of land until the time we need it for a cloverleaf expressway intersection. I do not suggest that we release our cemeteries for the benefit of automobiles, because that seems to be the one open land-use we can

[5] Berman et al., Executors, vs Parker et al., Vol. 348 U.S. Number 1, pp. 26–36, Nov. 22, 1954. Appeal from U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, No. 22.

hang on to. I just ask why we can't make parks as sacred as graveyards, why the quick are not just as good as the dead?"

Tourists spend vast sums of money every year to visit places of beauty. Upon their return home, one of the principal topics of conversation focuses upon the beauties of the landscapes they saw, and upon the inspiration they gained. Perhaps one reason for this lies in the absence of beauty at home and the craving to fill that void. Someone might say, this is all to the good; that, should this incentive to travel be removed, people would remain at home, and thus suffer from a provincialism that would be far worse than the absence of the soul-satisfying esthetic.

There is at least one authenticated case of a firm whose new building was so much more pleasant than the homes of its workers, the management had to force its employees to go home at the end of the day. Owners of factories have found that a beautiful establishment is *profitable;* profitable because employees do a better job; profitable because it makes a favorable impression among potential customers; profitable because of the good will it creates among the local residents.

Of course, beauty alone is not enough. The erection of even a beautiful new plant must not introduce disturbing phenomena such as the generation of excessive traffic, the emission of smoke or other deleterious fumes, an increase in the volume and frequency of noises. That these factors are very real, is evidenced by a number of urban neighborhood protests in recent months against the establishment of new industries, even when assurances were given that the new buildings would be physically attractive.

In the last analysis it seems, one might well ask, "What are cities for?" The answer needs to be realistic. Cities are a kind of cooperative institution where men endeavor to gain a living. Men are concerned first, as are other animals, with insuring themselves of enough food. After survival is certain, they seek the so-called cultural amenities of life. This situation calls for the acquisition of some surpluses, particularly of time, that is, leisure time. When man has achieved this goal, he then seems to feel a degree of satisfaction with life, and to desire to make some contribution to the advancement of his fellow man. Nowhere can these ends be more effectively achieved than in urban centers.

If what has been stated here be true, then man is desirous of something more than pursuing a routine existence in a drab environment. He is appreciative of the esthetic aspects of life, both tangible and intangible. In fact he seems discontented without the esthetic. So it is, then, that in the field of Urbanistics, both physical and functional, not only can people *not* afford to ignore esthetic factors, but they should aggressively endeavor to insure their realization. The geographer, with his breadth of interests and his essential function of interpreting man in terms of his physical environment, has a unique opportunity not only to interpret cities as a whole in terms of their physical environment, but also in terms of their functional structure, and, in the light of these findings, to assist in making our cities better places in which to live.

SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR*

Victor P. Petrov
U. S. Navy Postgraduate System

II. *The Arctic and Mid-Latitude Program*

The participation of the Soviet Union in the International Geophysical Year is not limited to the Antarctic. An extensive program of scientific observations

* Part I appeared in *The Professional Geographer*, March 1957

in the Soviet Arctic is planned. With the approach of the official start of the International Geophysical Year on July 1, 1957, the Soviets have increased their activities and preparations for scientific observations. The Arctic has long been an object of their intensive study. For this occasion, the Arctic area will be dotted with more than 100 stationary Polar stations, where coordinated observations will be made in accordance with the international plans of the IGY.

Especially important among these stations will be 5 regular observatories run by the Arctic Research Institute of the North Sea Route Administration. All these observatories are located above the Arctic Circle, between 70° and 81° North latitude. They are located at Barentsburg (Spitsbergen), Tikhaya Bay (Franz Josef Land), Dikson Island off the west coast of Taimyr Peninsula in the Kara Sea, Tiksi Bay on the eastern end of the Lena River delta, and Port Pevek on the East Siberian Sea coast.[1]

The work at these stations will be aided by scientists on three drifting ice stations in the Arctic Ocean. These are "North Pole 4," "North Pole 5," and the recently established "North Pole 6." About a year ago scientists were landed on an ice floe in the approximate position of the former station "North Pole 2," in the vicinity of so-called "Pole of Relative Inaccessibility." This floating station was located at the time in the area of 74°24' N. Latitude and 182°57' E. Longitude. Since April 1956 when the station was established, "North Pole 6" has been acting in a rather peculiar way. It has been moving like a clock pendulum, back and forth, at a speed of from zero to 20 miles a day.[2] The other two floating stations were established a year apart: "North Pole 5" in April 1955, located at that time at 82°04' N. Latitude and 157° E. Longitude; and "North Pole 4" in April 1954, about 500 miles north of Wrangel Island.[3]

Special scientific expeditions will roam the central Arctic basin and make observations at more than 500 locations. The work of ground parties will be supplemented by aerial surveys. Planes will fly courses along meridians between the southern borders of the Arctic and the North Pole, making observations.[4]

The Soviet scientists expect to make use of automatic (non-manned) drifting stations. The device consists of a 12–meter mast of alluminum alloy with an hermetically sealed balloon-like container at the lower end housing the batteries, clock mechanism and transmitter. Meteorological instruments are on the upper end of the mast. The length of the mast is sufficient to allow it to extend through the floe ice to the water, and thereby protect the batteries and mechanisms from extreme arctic temperatures. The batteries will enable the station to operate untended for a year. Periodically the clock mechanism will switch on the instruments to measure and record temperature, atmospheric pressure, wind velocity and direction. This information will be automatically transmitted by radio to the "Big Land," as they call their stations on the continent.[5]

Aurora Borealis will be observed and studied mainly at the stations near Murmansk and in Tiksi Bay.[6]

The work of the Soviet scientific stations in the Arctic and Antarctic will be closely integrated and coordinated. It is stated in the Soviet official program that "the presence of magnetic stations in the Arctic and the Antarctic

[1] *Geografia v Shkole*, 1956, No. 1; No. 4

[2] *Izvestia*, No. 2, Jan. 3, 1957

[3] *Sovetskii Flot*, No. 10, Jan. 13, 1956

[4] *Geografia v Shkole*, 1956, No. 1

[5] *Geografia v Shkole*, 1956, No. 4

[6] *Vestnik* of the USSR Academy of Sciences, 1956, No. 5

will create favorable conditions for studying the connection between Arctic and Antarctic geomagnetic disturbances, which in turn may help to elucidate certain major problems of the physics of corpuscular streams outside the borders of the earth's atmosphere."[7]

As a part of the special programs to be conducted within the Soviet Union, the Soviet scientists at Alma Ata in Central Asia intend to make regular observations of the moon for systematic determination of the earth's albedo. In addition, a special investigation of the polarization of the day and twilight sky will be carried out in Moscow.

Ionospheric investigations are being made at 17 stationary observatories of the USSR, in addition to the Antarctic station *Mirny*. In connection with these studies, meteors will be observed during the moonless nights by means of radar observations, mainly in Kazan and Kharkov in the European part of the Soviet Union, and in Stalinabad in Central Asia. Even visual observations of the altitude and drifts of meteor trains will be made at two stations in Ashkhabad and Stalinabad, Central Asia.[8]

Thirteen stations in the Soviet Union will observe solar activity, such as sun spots, flocculae, chromospheric flares, corona and radioemission. Even solar noise observations will be made at several observatories, including the well-known ones at Pulkovo, Gorky, and Moscow.

Of course, glaciology will not be neglected by Soviet investigators. They plan extensive studies of glacial regimen, processes of nourishment and wastage, temperature regimen in the glaciers and the upper layers of the lithosphere, snow cover, melt water discharge, structure of glaciers, structure of glacier ice and firn, movements of glaciers and thickness of the ice.[9] The study of the morphology and changes in size of the glaciers will be pursued not only in the three main Antarctic stations, but also at nine stations within the Soviet Union.

One of the most interesting areas in which Soviet scientists are conducting observations is in the vicinity of Oimiakon in eastern Siberia, which has the distinction of being the coldest spot on earth. At this so-called "World's Pole of Cold" there was an officially recorded minimum temperature of -70° C. (-99.4° F.).[10] Unofficially, there were reports of -107° F. in the area. The scientific expedition headed by N. A. Grave established its camp among the glaciers of the Suntar–Hayata Range which rises almost 10,000 feet above sea level. The station elevation is over 6,000 feet. Here scientists will study the temperature regime of the frozen ground and ice. At present there are 12 scientists working at this station.[11]

To study and to form a more precise picture of the distribution of the magnetic elements in oceans, the Soviets built the special three-masted schooner "Zaria," 600 tons displacement, which they claim to be the only non-magnetic vessel in the world. This ship is constructed of such non-magnetic materials as wood, bronze, and brass. Even the ship's anchors are made of brass.[12] During

[7] The USSR Academy of Sciences, "USSR Program for the International Geophysical year, 1957–1958"

[8] *Ibid.*

[9] *Ibid.*

[10] *Vokrug Sveta*, No. 11, Nov. 1953

[11] *Pravda*, No. 288, Oct. 14, 1956

[12] *Izvestia*, No. 199, Aug. 21, 1956

the International Geophysical Year the "Zaria" will make a 45,000 mile cruise. Starting at Leningrad it will sail around Europe to the Black Sea, then back through the Mediterranean and across the Atlantic to Brazil. From there the "Zaria" will take a southern route to the west coast of Australia, then go north to the Sea of Japan.[13]

Oceanographic studies will be made at several stations in the Soviet Union. For example, the fluctuation of sea level will be recorded at ten stations, and long waves at two stations. General oceanographic studies will be conducted by the "Ob," which took scientists to Antarctica, and by the "Vitiaz," specially constructed for oceanographic work. The 5,500-ton "Vitiaz" will make a series of long voyages in the Pacific Ocean. This vessel can sail 18,600 nautical miles without replenishing its supplies of fuel.[14] In addition, six big and several small fishing vessels will roam the waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Antarctic Oceans, to assist in the program.

The program of research in seismology will include investigations of the seismicity of the Antarctic and Arctic regions, as well as investigations of the microseisms and structure of the earth's crust in the northwestern Pacific.[15]

The official Soviet program presented to the secretariat of the IGY at Brussels indicated that there will be about 320 stations, all told, organized within the borders of the Soviet Union, for various geophysical observations. The drifting stations in the Arctic should be added to that number.

Moreover, the Soviets announced at the International Conference in Barcelona, that they are making preparations for launching an artificial earth's satellite during the IGY, in addition to those which will be launched by the United States.[16]

The over-all supervision of the extensive Soviet program for participation in the IGY is entrusted to a special 35-man committee working in 12 groups, in conformity with the main sub-divisions of geophysical research established at the Rome Assembly.[17]

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[13] USSR Program

[14] *Pravda*, No. 279, Oct. 5, 1956; *Morskoi Flat*, May 1955, No. 5; *Ogonyok*, No. 22, May 30, 1954

[15] USSR Program

[16] *Pravda*, No. 279, Oct. 5, 1956

[17] USSR Program

THE STUDY OF GEOGRAPHY IN BELGIUM

Roger H. Charlier
Hofstra College

Entrance requirements to a Belgian university or institution of higher learning of university status differ considerably from those of similar American institutions. Admission is not on a selective basis, at the discretion of the university, but is a right earned by anyone acquiring a certificate of secondary studies. Graduation from a high school is not a prerequisite to admission to a university. A student may take an examination before a Royal Commission, known as the *Jury Central*, and if successful, will be granted a certificate which has the same value and privileges as the high school certificate.

The Belgian high school student attends morning and afternoon classes seven hours a day, four days a week, and morning classes only on Thursday and Saturday, except in the last year when he must attend six full days a week.

Geography is not an elective subject: it is required during the six years of high school regardless of the future profession of the student.

High schools offer five different curricula: Greek–Latin, Latin–sciences, Latin–mathematics, sciences, and commercial. A certificate of Greek–Latin studies is required for those intending to become geographers. Since the end of World War II, a new law temporarily permits students to follow either the Greek–Latin or the Latin–mathematics or the Latin–sciences curriculum. The Greek–Latin curriculum stresses classical studies. Three-fourths of the time is spent studying languages and the basic sciences. The Latin–mathematics and the Latin–science curricula substitute respectively advanced mathematics and sciences for the study of Greek. An extensive knowledge of Latin and Greek is felt necessary for a good understanding of original source material and proper use of scientific terminology. The high school studies spread over six years and cover what is included in the American High School and Junior College.

Belgian universities are subdivided in "Faculties." Geography is in the Faculty of Sciences and is thus recognized as a natural science rather than a social science. Degrees offered are *candidate in sciences for the group of geographical sciences* (our baccalaureate), *licenciate in sciences for the group of geographical sciences* and *doctor of sciences for the group in geographical sciences.* Required courses in geography are, however, not limited to students in the Faculty of Sciences. They are prerequisite for bachelor and licenciate degrees in other schools and faculties for students majoring in such fields as history, economics, political science, engineering, anthropology, business administration, pharmacy, and biology. They are electives for medical students. Attendance at an institution for higher learning is not compulsory and all degrees can be earned by passing examinations before a Royal Commission, the *Jury Central pour la Collation des Grades Académiques.* Degrees are protected by law and anyone falsely claiming possession of such a degree is liable to a fine and prison term.

A student has far greater freedom of transfer than in the United States. He can change schools at the end of any academic year and, by law, he cannot be compelled to repeat any course he has successfully completed. Indeed, the Belgian educational system does not function according to the "credit" system, but, as do some American schools, according to the "course" principle. The law sets the minimum requirements for each degree. The university has the right to add to these requirements, but not to subtract.

The legislature has set as minimum requirements for the candidate degree the successful completion of the following subjects in not less than two years:

Logics, Psychology, Ethics
Experimental physics including laboratory exercises
General chemistry including laboratory exercises
Elements of analytic geometry and of integral calculus
Elements of botanics including laboratory exercises
Elements of physical geography including laboratory exercises
Elements of geology including laboratory exercises
Elements of mineralogy including laboratory exercises
Elements of zoology including laboratory exercises
Two courses in geography of not less than 90 hours each[1]
History of Belgium and of Belgian Congo

[1]The term "90 hours" means actual class time and equals our 6 semester hours concept.

The law requires the following subjects for the degree of licenciate and sets a minimum of two years for completion:

Mathematical Geography
Physical Geography
Geology
Plant Geography
Animal Geography
Human Geography
Economic Geography
Regional Geography
Statistics
Political Economy

Advanced study in one of the following elective fields: physical geography, plant and animal geography, human geography, regional geography, geophysics, and meteorology.

A licenciate thesis is required in all cases and must be concerned with the subject chosen as an elective.

The University of Louvain added to the candidate curriculum an extra course in elements of human geography and initiation to geography, and to the licenciate requirements a course in prehistoric archaeology. The Free University of Brussels added a course in the elements of mathematical geography to its candidate program and courses in topography, geology and mineralogy of Belgian Congo, climatology, and historical sources to the licenciate requirements. Both Brussels and Louvain require at the undergraduate level a course in advanced botany and advanced zoology, and at the graduate level, courses in the history of geography, meteorology and geophysics.

Examinations also differ considerably from the pattern followed in American schools. Examinations are taken twice a year and a candidate has thus two chances of passing, first in July at the end of the academic year, then in October before the beginning of the next academic year.[2] If a student fails a subject, he is required to take another examination in all subjects, not just in the one he failed. If he misses a second time, he repeats all courses. Examinations are oral and in theory they last only one-half hour for each subject, but the writer has known some which took the better part of two hours. They are public and in principle anyone may ask the student a question. The candidate has the liberty of being examined on half the courses at the end of his first year and the second half at the end of the second, or all courses at the end of two years.

The choice of a career must be made by the time the student starts his higher studies, although at the undergraduate level (mostly at the end of the first year) switching majors is relatively easy within the same Faculty. This is due to the similarity of programs required for several majors. Thus, the would-be geographer could change to geology, pharmacy, medicine, or biology without great loss of courses.

Probably the most apparent difference between the program of the United States student and that of his European counterpart is the American's freedom to select courses in contrast to the requirement for the European to take all subjects with only a choice in his graduate studies. This is the philosophy of a university selected curriculum versus that of a legislated program.

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[1] The University of Brussels, closed during the German occupation of World War II because it was "the hideout of agonizing democracy," was granted permission to hold continuous sessions for students "whose studies had been interrupted by the Occupation Power edict."

The minimum number of hours devoted to each subject is set by the university, but each individual professor has the right to exceed that number if he thinks it is necessary, which he frequently does. The lack of freedom in subject choosing is perhaps compensated by the other freedoms given the student. For example, attendance is not compulsory, and no marks except in laboratory work are given during the academic year, the entire emphasis being on the final examination. Questions during the lecture sessions are seldom asked, the only opportunity for the student to get additional information is during seminars and laboratory periods.

The Belgian student's schedule is far heavier than that of the American student. This is perhaps one of the reasons why extracurricular activities as well as intercollegiate athletics do not take any significant part in university life. The emphasis is definitely on formal instruction and no physical education is required. Universities, however, subject students to an annual medical examination and medical advice is available free at most university clinics.

While field trips are not listed as part of the legal requirements, all universities include in their program a certain number of such trips. Attendance is supposedly not compulsory but since reports are due, every student participates. The emphasis put on the importance of direct observation is a main feature of all Belgian schools of geography. Field trips sometimes last for periods of two weeks, or they may only involve overnight stays. Visits to foreign countries are frequent. The main objective of field work is to develop in the student "a sense of observation" and to give him an opportunity to "acquire the ability of interpretation in the field." The relation between the geographical phenomena and the geological aspects is constantly stressed. Conclusions reached through the observation of the physical landscape form the basis of the study of the cultural or human manifestations.

The candidate diploma lists all the subjects, those required by law as well as the additional subjects demanded by the university. The licenciate diploma gives the title of the master essay. The diploma, thus, combines the roles played in America by the diploma and the transcript. Marks are never disclosed and remain confidential. Attrition is great, especially after the first "candidate" year and runs normally to about 65%. Diplomas can be granted with honors, high honors, or the highest honors.

A doctoral degree can theoretically be obtained one year after the licenciate. The author knows of no case where this actually occurred. Two or more years of arduous work are normally necessary to get the coveted "Doctor" title. Contrary to the practice in the United States, France and Germany, the student takes no courses. He selects a topic and works under the guidance of an advisor, the *rapporteur* or *directeur de thèse*. A thesis is always a substantial volume and usually contains one or more positive or negative propositions, although lately some theses seem to lean more towards the dissertation type. Doctor degrees are given by the Faculty in which the student graduates, hence the Doctor of Philosophy is granted by the Faculty of Philosophy, the Doctor of Letters by the Faculty of Literature. The geographer receives a Doctor of Science degree. The diploma lists the thesis title.

There are only two types of degrees and diplomas: those bestowed by *law* and those merely bestowed by the *university*. The legal degree is considered to be of greater weight than the "scientific" degree granted by the university. Scientific degrees are sought by those students who did not fulfill the legal requirements for admission but were received by the university after an examination by a University Jury. Only legal degrees grant access to official positions. Scientific degrees are just as useful for those who intend to enter private industry.

There are not as many outlets for geographers in Belgium as in the United States or even Germany.[3] There is, however, a great shortage of geography teachers at the high school level and, incidentally, these positions are excellent since high school teachers have schedules and obligations comparable to college professors in the United States. Very few openings exist at the university level and the competition for these is more than keen. Private industry looks for geographers specialized in human (industrial, urban, etc.) geography, economic geography or physical geography (Congo). There are outlets in various government agencies: Urbanism Directorate, Statistics Office, Military Cartographic Institute, Belgian Congo or Ruanda–Urundi administration. Furthermore, geographers are as eligible as any other university graduate (graduate level only) to occupy the highest administrative offices in the State, Provincial or Municipal Governments. When fulfilling their military service under Belgium's compulsory active and reserve service program (age 17 to 55), geographers, as all other holders of academic degrees, must accept a commission after 18 months of non-commissioned service.

[3] See Klaus Schroeder (Trans. by George W. Hoffman), "The Study of Geography in West Germany," *The Professional Geographer* Vol. 8, No. 4, July 1956

PROGRESS REPORT ON PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Arthur H. Doerr

In the May 1955 issue of *The Professional Geographer* the professional note entitled "Physical Geography at the University of Oklahoma" by Ralph Olson and Arthur Doerr presented details of the successful establishment of a five-hour laboratory science course in physical geography. The course fulfills half of the basic ten hour science requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences. The course has now been in operation for three years. Enough students have enrolled and sufficient time has elapsed to allow an objective evaluation of the course.

Since its inception 430 students have been enrolled in the course. The attrition rate has been rather high, averaging about 15–20% per semester. This fairly high failure rate has had two results: the enrollment has not increased measurably, and the general I.Q. of students enrolled (as revealed in college entrance tests) has shown an increase. This suggests that physical geography has gained the reputation of being a "tough" course and that those students desiring an educational challenge are enrolling in increasing numbers.

In an attempt to analyze the course in terms of possible future improvements, the instructors circulated questionnaires (following) for an anonymous student opinion poll.

In the opinion of the geography staff this questionnaire revealed greatest dissatisfaction with the laboratory exercises. In our opinion this is primarily due to the impracticality of introducing many controlled experiments since "the landscape is the geographer's laboratory." Other inadequacies in laboratory exercises included the problem of length—some proved to be too long and some too short for a three hour laboratory period. An editing program will begin shortly in an attempt to iron out the "bugs" inherent in the present exercises.

Other minor difficulties include laboratory breakage and loss of equipment. This difficulty is being overcome by more rigid laboratory supervision.

On the whole we believe the course has been highly successful. It has enabled geographers to contact freshmen in a way heretofore impossible. This

earlier contact has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of geography majors and minors.

Other tangible and intangible benefits have resulted as well. An increased budget to introduce a physical geography laboratory has enabled the department to substantially improve its physical facilities. Word has filtered to all corners of the campus that physical geography is a quality course, and this has resulted in favorable reaction on the part of our professorial colleagues and better students.

In short, we believe the course has been a substantial boost to the department, and to borrow a statement used in our previous article, we would recommend that other departments try the introduction of such a course where the situation appears favorable.

Student Questionnaire

The members of the geography staff are especially interested in the reactions of students in Geography I to that course and to the instruction which they have received. We hope to get an honest, candid, unbiased expression of opinion from each of you. This reply is to be completely anonymous.

I

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Inadequate
The text is	X				
Lecture instruction has been	X				
Laboratory exercises have been			X		
Laboratory instruction has been		X			
Examinations have been		X			

II

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
As a student I have had to think	X			
The course has been of a scientific nature		X		
My questions in lecture session have been answered	X			
My questions in laboratory have been answered	X			
The course moved too rapidly		X		

III

	Very beneficial	Beneficial	Of Some value	Waste of time
The course has been	X			
The lectures were	X			
The laboratories were			X	

[The checks indicate the most frequently marked choice.]

ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

PRESIDENT'S ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The President's reports for the past several years have dealt primarily with the accomplishments and problems of the Association for the period of their administration. I do not imply that these reports did not touch upon some things that had important implications for the future of the Association. Nevertheless, the emphasis was for the most part on yearly accomplishments. Perhaps that is what a President's report should be. However, I trust that you will accord me the privilege of taking a longer view of accomplishments and of projecting Association activities into the future, at least along some lines which I believe deserve serious consideration, not only by your officers but also by the entire membership.

Nearly a decade has passed since on December 30, 1948 there was consummated a merger of the American Society of Professional Geographers and the Association of American Geographers. A few statistical comparisons between 1949 and 1956 will provide the basis for a real understanding of some of the things I wish to say and for an appreciation of their significance to the welfare of the Association. These figures are presented because of statements and questions that have come to me concerning the current financial situation of the Association.

According to the Treasurer's report for the year ending December 15, 1949 of the funds used for financing the activities of the Association 68% came from members dues, 24% from publications and 8% from investments. For the current year, of the funds used to carry on the business of the Association 52% came from members dues, 24% from publications, and 24% from Association reserve funds (Joint Research Account, Reserve Account, Royalties Account, and the Publications Fund Account). Thus, despite the fact that the Association has 700 more members than it had in 1949, membership dues in 1956 contributed 16% less toward total cost of running Association affairs than they did in 1949. Also, despite the facts that the publication program of 1956 was larger than in 1949 and that costs of printing are at least 30% greater, publications provided the same percentage (24) of the funds used for financing the affairs of the Association in the two years. The Association published a Directory in 1949 and a Handbook–Directory in 1956. In the latter year the over-all costs of putting the Handbook–Directory in the hands of the members free of cost to them and the amount of the fifty cents per member returned to the Regional Divisions equaled about 80% of the amount drawn from reserves to balance the 1956 budget. It seems to me that the members must look upon the costs of these two items as dividends from their dues. In the last seven years of operation (1950–56 inclusive) the expenditures have exceeded total income by more than $6,000. Deficit financing in an emergency is necessary and appropriate, but the financial reserves of the Association are not sufficiently large to permit deficit financing to become the rule rather than the rare exception. There are only two ways to solve this problem: one is to increase income; the other is to reduce expenses. A reduction in expenses means fewer services to the members, reduced Association activities, and a smaller publications program. At times an Association may look to contributions for needed funds. As the Association grows and increases its influence, it may expect more gifts, but gifts, normally restricted to specific purposes, do not provide cash for what may be called the "normal operations of the Association." At the present our Association must look primarily to its members for financial support.

Since December 1948 the Association has had a growth in membership of about 60%. The membership is now 1,950. For several years student and Associate membership dues have been insufficient to cover their share of the costs of administration and journal publications. In my opinion it is appropriate for the Association to subsidize student members and their subsidization should be continued, even though this requires a draft against the dues of other classes of members. The Association may well consider the advisability of setting up contributing and other types of membership. I recommend that the Council set up a special committee to look into the matter.

In the years immediately following the merger of ASPG and AAG it became apparent to the Council that no longer could the Secretary and Treasurer handle effectively most of the administrative matters of the Association with part-time clerical help of their departmental secretaries. The continued increase in membership and the consequent heavy load of work made necessary the establishment of a Central Office with a full-time secretary. These things have meant increasing costs of running the Association. In 1949 total administration costs equaled 25% of total expenditures; in 1956 about 38%. In 1956 Central Office expenses, including about $800 spent for special new office equipment to reduce labor costs and increase efficiency, equaled 30% of total Association expenditures. Before the Central Office was established a great deal of work was done at no cost to the Association by the regular secretaries of the Secretary, Treasurer, and others. For the President and chairman and members of most committees this is still true. Even if some members feel that we should return to the administrative organization that existed in 1949, our size and the work to be done make that impossible. I believe no one will question the value of the work of the Central Office, or the efficiency with which it is performed. In my opinion we all owe the Central Office Manager, Miss Amy Pruitt, a special vote of thanks for the disptach and effectiveness with which a great volume of work rolls out of the Central Office, which Office, by the way, is a noisy corridor in the basement of The Library of Congress. Amy is not just a routine office gid; she has imagination and repeatedly comes up with valuable ideas.

Although the establishment of the Central Office lightened the burdens of some of the officers and although some of the tasks formerly performed by the elected Secretary are now done by committees, the load of work of our Secretary continues to increase. Only the officers, who get copies of all correspondence, can fully appreciate the workload of our Secretary. We all owe the retiring Secretary, Burton W. Adkinson, a profound debt of gratitude for his outstanding performance of the past three years. Also, we should render whatever service we can to lighten the workload of the newly-elected Secretary, Arch C. Gerlach. Our Association is too large to operate without a Central Office and it is too small to afford a full-time Administrative Secretary. If many new geographers continue to be added to the profession each year by our graduate schools and if the Association continues to grow as it has in the past five years, the time may come when the Association may have to consider the employment of a full-time Administrative Secretary.

I cannot dispose of the question of the Central Office without calling your attention to the fact that for years various universities and government departments have contributed office space without cost to the Association. The Secretary reports that within two years it will probably be necessary for the Central Office to move out of The Library of Congress and take with it all back issues of our publications now stored there. The Association has lost the opportunity of getting space in the new AAAS building in Washington. Suitable office space will cost between $1,500 and $2,000 per year. In my opinion a special committee should be appointed now to look into this matter.

According to the report of the Secretary for 1949 the Association benefitted by the work of twenty committees. In 1956 an enormous amount of work was performed for the Association by its thirty committees. Several committees did outstanding work. Space does not permit an analysis of their achievements. A few committees did not perform the functions and duties assigned to them by the Council. The published committee reports will bear out the above facts. Nearly 8% of the members of the Association served on one or more committees. Most deliberations and accomplishments of the committees were made by correspondence alone. This method is time consuming and often ineffective. Most of the committees receive no financial assistance, even for secretarial help, from the Association. In 1949 the Association spent about $630 for committee expenses; in 1956 about $400. Several requests in 1956 for funds to make a committee meeting possible had to be rejected. I view with serious apprehension the lack of funds to finance committee meetings. If a committee has an important job to do, should it not have sufficient funds to make possible one meeting, other than at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Association? Or if funds are not available, should not the membership of a committee be chosen from Association members in a given locality so that its members could meet as often as necessary to get the job done well? Because the members of these committees are professional men, the Association should reduce as much as possible the draft on the time and energy of those willing to serve it.

In 1949 the Association had six recognized regional divisions, some of which were notably active, and others relatively unorganized and dormant. In 1956 the ten regional divisions of the Association were well organized and active. From time to time the activities of the regional divisions have been published in *The Professional Geographer;* this policy should be continued. The fifty cents per member returned to the regional divisions has been a stimulus to greater activity. In 1956 every division held one meeting; three held two meetings; one held several meetings. In each case one of these meetings was termed the annual meeting. At the time of the reorganization following the merger of ASPG and AAG, when the President was relieved of the honor and task of preparing and delivering a presidental address, the Council suggested that the President might serve some useful purpose by visiting the regional divisions. In line with this policy, established by my predecessors, I attended five regional division meetings. At each meeting I spoke briefly on the financial, membership, publication, and other problems of the Association, in which the members of the regional divisions expressed keen interest. At one meeting I took part in a symposium and gave the evening address following the annual dinner. When I could not attend I invited other officers of the Association to represent it at the regional division annual meeting. From my experience one thing became clear: the regional divisions feel honored by the presence of the President at their meetings. In my opinion the Association should be represented by either the President or Vice President at the annual regional division meetings.

In quality the regional division programs were equal to similar sections of the program at the national Annual Meeting. It is significant that regional divisions have excellent programs because not more than one-third of the members attend the national Annual Meetings. The regional divisions can perform other significant functions; lending assistance in maintaining and increasing the membership of the Association, participating more actively through divisional Chairmen in the deliberations of the Council, representing the Association at meetings of other disciplines, and informing the Central Office of important geographical developments and events in their regions. It is an honor to be elected Chairman of a Regional Division. Also, that position carries significant

responsibilities to the Association. A Chairman of a Regional Division is a full member of the Council. Both the outgoing and incoming Chairmen should attend the final Council meeting each year.

The Editors and the Publications Committee have done an outstanding job. Both *The Professional Geographer* and the *Annals* have increased in size, and in my opinion they have improved in format and in content. Strenuous effort should be put forth to maintain continued improvement, and the Association should find the means for financing such improvement. The most tangible contact the Association has over the years with its members is through its journal publications. This is true also for the contact with members of related disciplines and with the scientific field in general. All of you know that publication costs have increased greatly. Increasing subscription rates for the *Annals* from $5 to $10 and for *The Professional Geographer* from $3 to $5 should be looked upon as only one means of obtaining greater income from the journal publications. It seems to me that every university with a well established department of geography should subscribe to the *Annals* and *The Professional Geographer.*

Although the Editors and the Publications Committee during the past three years have solved many problems, there are other questions, it seems to me, that may be of equal or greater importance. What is the proportion of publication outlets for our membership as compared with that of the memberships of other disciplines? Is there a preference on the part of our members to have their articles published in periodicals other than ours, and if so why? To what extent does the content of *The Professional Geographer* and the *Annals* meet the desires and needs of our current membership? Should one issue of the *Annals* every year, or every two years, be devoted to substantive studies on an area or topic (studies projected and planned in detail well in advance), such as "Problems on Arid Lands," "Water Resource Utilization in the United States," "The Near East," "Trends in Developments in Arctic Regions," etc.? In my opinion, such questions should be looked into thoroughly. It seems to me that this job should not be given to the Editors or the Publications Committee, which already are doing all the work they should be requested to undertake. This task should be assigned to a continuing Publications Review Committee, made up of interested persons willing to devote time and energy to arriving at satisfactory answers.

For years members of the Association have expressed a need for a publications outlet for research papers of monograph size. As you now know, Rand McNally and Company in April 1956 generously proposed to underwrite the publication of one monograph per year for four years, providing the Association would undertake to select manuscripts, edit them, and read proof. The Council promptly accepted the offer and appointed an Editorial Board which developed conditions for publication. Whether or not this project succeeds is now up to the members, because for the time being, eligibility is limited to original manuscripts by full members of AAG. Dr. Andrew H. Clark, Editor of the AAG Monograph Series, reports that only one paper has been received. He and the members of the Editorial Board invite the members to submit manuscripts of monograph length. Some members may feel that the Association should wait and see how this project turns out before making future plans. In my opinion the Association should begin now to plan for financing the *AAG Monograph Series* five to ten years from now.

At the Executive Committee meeting in February 1957 another publication opportunity was presented to the Association. The United States is a member of the Commission on Geography of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, one of the agencies of the Organization of American States. According to the rules and regulations of the Commission, each Member Nation is to present at each Consultation on Geography (about every other year) a "National Report

on the Trends in Geography in the Academic, Government, and Business Fields." Obviously one or two persons do not have the wide contacts necessary for writing the report themselves. It is a task for a fairly large committee. The proposal is that AAG direct the preparation of such a report by a large committee. For what other geographic organization is the task more appropriate? It is reported that funds, other than those of AAG, can be made available for bringing a committee together at least once, paying one or two persons to edit the manuscript, and reproducing the report. Such a report would carry the name of the Association of American Geographers and the persons who contributed to it.

I take pleasure in calling your attention to two gifts to the Association during the fiscal year 1956. Early in the year Mrs. Wallace W. Atwood gave $1,744 to the Association to increase the principal of the Wallace W. Atwood Fund to $5,000 and to provide a $500 award in 1957. The income from the Atwood Fund will now make possible a $500 grant every other year for a research project in physical geography. In February 1957, Otto Geppert, President of Denoyer–Geppert Company, gave the Association $1,000 to be added to the principal of the non-serials publication fund. Mr. Geppert specified that the income from the gift, which he hopes to renew annually, shall be used for non-serial publications of the Association. We are very grateful to Mrs. Atwood and Mr. Geppert for their gifts and for their interest in the research and publication activities of the Association.

I take pleasure in announcing that C. B. Stateler, President of A. J. Nystrom & Company, in February 1957, proposed the establishment of an Albert J. Nystrom Memorial Fellowship of $2,400 per year for four years to be awarded to an advanced geography student for dissertation research on "Improving Methods of Teaching of Geography at the Elementary and Secondary Levels." The proposal included a provision that AAG annually receive, evaluate applications, and select a recipient and a first alternate. The Council accepted the proposal in principle and appointed a Fellowship Committee to continue negotiations with Mr. Stateler and other possible fellowship donors, and to develop principles to guide the Council in handling such fellowships.

The National Council of Geographic Education has made two proposals to the Council of AAG for joint projects. It proposes that the two associations cooperate in the preparation of a booklet on "Careers in Geography" for distribution to high school and college guidance and career counselors. It also proposes that the two associations appoint a joint committee to look into the possibility of the establishment of a *Geographic Education Center,* to outline general objectives and specific plans of operation for such a center, and to investigate possibilities for obtaining financial support for it. In my opinion these proposals should be accepted and the AAG and NCGE should move forward on both projects.

To each and every one of the officers and committeemen I publicly acknowledge my sincere appreciation for a job well done. Their faithful devotion to the tasks before them carried the Association forward and made my period of service a distinct pleasure. To all of you I owe a debt of gratitude for bestowing upon me an honor that comes to an American geographer only once in a lifetime.

——Clarence F. Jones

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND MOTIONS OF FINAL MEETING OF 1956 COUNCIL, March 30, 1957, Cincinnati, Ohio

1. Results of the national election were announced.

2. It was reported that the proposed Federation of Associations of Geographers of the Americas had not been organized at the IGU meeting in Brazil.

3. A review was presented on the procedures followed in handling membership applications by the Secretary and the Credentials Committee and the Central Office. A recent tally indicated that the membership now totals 1,943. Of this number approximately 64% are full members, 30% are associates of whom about one-third are students. The remainder are life or dues remitted members.

4. Work of the Placement Committee was reviewed. The current situation of having more jobs than qualified applicants has greatly increased the work of Placement. The Chairman of the Committee handles correspondence with the employers while the Central Office handles the selection and notification of candidates, follow-up records and necessary correspondence.

5. Treasurer's report. A letter from the Treasurer was read which pointed out that the AAG has spent nearly $6,500 more on normal operations than it received during 1956. This deficit will continue unless something is done. It was stated that the AAG has been going into debt every year for the past six years. Estimates were presented indicating the anticipated income if the dues were increased to $12.50 or $15. The statistics indicated that a raise to $12.50 would not be sufficient to produce solvency for the AAG.

6. A motion was adopted to authorize the Central Office to set up a petty cash fund as a checking account for the operation of the Central Office.

7. A motion was adopted to authorize the Treasurer or the Central Office Manager to sign checks against this checking account.

8. Review of Central Office activities. About 12,000 letters and postcards are received during the year that require handling in one way or another. This means answering 9 to 60 letters a day. Over 42,000 pieces of mail are machine addressed. The Central Office assists the Secretary, Treasurer, and Committees in handling Association activities.

9. A motion was adopted that the Council recognize the desirability of distributing copies of *A Career in Geography* and recommend that steps be taken to increase its availability and maintain the publication in supply, and enable the Secretary in consert with the President or his delegate to take such specific action as may be necessary to effect that objective.

10. A motion was accepted to appoint Andrew Clark as Editor of the AAG Monograph Series. Members of the Editorial Board are: Gilbert F. White (3 years); F. Kenneth Hare (2 years); and John K. Wright (1 year) – terms began in June 1956.

11. A motion was adopted authorizing the Central Office to bind the remaining copies of *American Geography*.

12. A motion was accepted to approve in principle that a supplemental map publication is appropriate for the *Annals*.

13. A motion was accepted to appoint a map editor from nominations of the Publications Committee presented to the Council for approval. The Map Editor will have the same relation to the Editor of the *Annals* as the Book Review Editor.

14. A motion was accepted to provide the map editor with authority to approve or disapprove the maps submitted for publication in cooperation with specialists he selects and issue specifications conforming to the National Atlas.

15. A motion was accepted authorizing the map editor to request materials and notify the membership through *The Professional Geographer* of exact specifications.

16. A motion was adopted that the Association would favor and specifically authorized the Map Editor of the Annals or the Chairman of the Cartography Committee to seek or receive funds for the supplemental map publications.

17. A motion was adopted to approve the agenda for the Business Meeting.

18. Reviewed previous Council action on the recommendations for changes in the Constitution and By–Laws.

19. A motion was adopted that the dues of Members and Associates will be $15 per year, effective January 1, 1958. (Married couples will pay $18.75.)

20. A motion was adopted to approve the changes in the Constitution of the American Council of Learned Societies.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND MOTIONS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF 1957 COUNCIL, April 4, 1957, Cincinnati, Ohio

1. Elected the Executive Committee of the Council: Chauncy D. Harris, President; Clarence F. Jones, Past President; Lester E. Klimm, Vice President; Arch C. Gerlach, Secretary; Wallace W. Atwood, Jr., Treasurer; and Edward Ackerman and Wilma Fairchild, Councilors.

2. Received a report on the actions and motions of the Final Meeting of the 1956 Council.

3. Appointments of Committee memberships and delegates were made. (To be reported in the July issue of *The Professional Geographer.*)

4. Authorized the Central Office to maintain a separate checking account.

5. Accepted a resolution authorizing the Treasurer to buy and sell stocks and bonds in the name of the Association.

6. Accepted the recommendations of the Committee on Fellowships and instructed the Committee to proceed with negotiations with the donors.

7. Accepted a report on the preparations being made by the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1958 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California.

8. Agreed that a joint session with the American Meteorological Society could not be arranged for the Los Angeles meeting but might be possible for a future meeting.

9. Authorized the Local Arrangements Committee for the Pittsburgh meeting in 1959 to establish a registration fee within the limits of $2 to $5.

10. It was reported that the Coffee Breaks cost $268 for the Cincinnati meeting. This represents the cost of cleaning the cups at 25¢ each as compared with 30¢ per cup in Montreal and 50¢ per cup in Memphis. Members should note there is no charge for refills.

11. Instructed the Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee for the Pittsburgh meeting to attempt to change the dates of the meeting to begin on Thursday and end on Saturday instead of beginning on Monday, March 30 and ending on Thursday, April 2.

12. Lack of a quorum prevented the official transaction of business by the remaining members of the Council. Subject to Council approval by mail ballot, the following recommendations were made:

(a) The Secretary was instructed to obtain a vote on the selection of the location for the 1960 meeting.

(b) The report of the Research Grants Committee was returned for further consideration and recommendations.

(c) Recommended that the Council consider the advisability of requesting the Pacific Science Congress to establish a Geography Section.

(d) Requested the Chairman of the Southeastern Division to present a written report on his proposal for the consideration of the Council.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, APRIL 3, 1957
held in Cincinnati, Ohio

The meeting was called to order by President Clarence F. Jones at 4:30 p.m.

1. The agenda was presented and accepted.

2. Clark Crain, Benjamin Thomas, and Frank Keller were appointed to serve on the Teller's Committee.

3. J. Norman Carls, Trevor Lloyd, and Samuel N. Dicken were unanimously elected to serve on the Nominating Committee.

4. John C. Weaver, Edward T. Price, and Merle C. Prunty, Jr. were unanimously elected to serve on the Honors Committee.

5. E. Willard Miller, Richard S. Thoman, and Minnie E. Lemaire were unanimously elected to serve on the Credentials Committee.

6. Results of the election of officers were reported: President Chauncy D. Harris, Vice President Lester E. Klimm, Secretary Arch C. Gerlach, and Loyal Durand, Jr. and Henry M. Kendall as Councilors.

7. President Clarence F. Jones presented an analysis of the accomplishments and problems of the Association. (See President's report.)

8. Guido G. Weigend read the memorials to the deceased members and the meeting stood in silent tribute.

9. Herman Friis presented an illustrated report on additional data resulting from the preparation of the *Handbook–Directory*.

*10. Secretary Burton W. Adkinson reported on the activities and contributions of geographers during the past year and pointed out some of the major problems confronting the Association.

*11. Miss Amy M. Pruitt presented an analysis of the functions of the Central Office and the services provided for the Association.

*12. Secretary Burton W. Adkinson presented the Treasurer's report. It was stated that for the past several years the Association has spent more than it received. In order to continue growing as a professional organization, it is necessary to obtain additional revenue.

13. The Teller's Committee reported that the ballot taken on the proposed change in the Constitution for the nomination of two candidates instead of three for the Vice President has been approved with two dissenting votes. The vote was unanimous to extend the length of time for balloting.

14. By voice vote, the Business Meeting unanimously adopted the proposed change in Section 1, Dues, the By–Laws to the Constitution, and accepted the recommendation that the amount of dues will be $15 for Members and Associates effective January 1, 1958. (Life Members abstained from voting.)

15. Meredith Burrill presented the report of the Resolutions Committee, which was unanimously accepted.

President Clarence F. Jones adjourned the Business Meeting at 6 p.m.

*Copies available at Central Office

SUMMARIES OF INFORMAL PANEL DISCUSSIONS AT 1957 ANNUAL MEETINGS, CINCINNATI

Statistics in Geography. J. Ross Mackay, University of British Columbia, presiding. Panelists: Dennis Durden, Larry Smith and Co.; Duane Marble, University of Washington; and H. H. McCarty, University of Iowa.

The session was characterized by enthusiasm and a free and easy exchange of ideas. Undoubtedly the average age of those in attendance was enough lower

than that at other sessions to be statistically significant at a low enough level of probability to rule out chance and to permit the generalization that it is the young geographers who intend to find out the value of statistical methodology in geography.

There was repeated emphasis that statistics must be regarded as another tool, though a very valuable one. It was stressed that intelligence and imagination must precede measurement and subsequent statistical analysis; that science and statistics have evolved together. Only in this context, according to Durden, can inference be made with discrimination, conviction, and safety. Marble enlarged upon this theme and discussed the importance of mathematical model building in general and in particular with regard to the details of certain recently completed studies at the University of Washington under the direction of William Garrison.

McCarty remarked that already certain geographers had come to realize the implications of statistical methodology and were living easily with new techniques of measurement and quantification. He hoped, though, that having learned a little, geographers would not apply the tools and consider statistical methodology as a panacea. He deplored what he detected as the beginning of "band-wagoning" in certain quarters.

Discussion resulted in the conclusion that knowing methods and then searching for problems in geography to apply them to would do damage to the profession. A more acceptable procedure is to recognize the problem and then seek methods of solution. This, in many cases, leads geographers to statistical methodology of necessity rather than by choice. In this case the emphasis remains on geography rather than being shifted to statistics.

(Summary by William Warntz)

Criticism of Visual Aids as Employed at Our National Meetings. Robert C. Goodman, Wayne University, presiding. Panelists: Elizabeth Eiselen, Wellesley College; Herbert Gaede, Ball State Teachers College; and Richard Edes Harrison.

Projected maps, diagrams, statistical tables and pictures are useful in the presentation of geographic papers, but more attention needs to be given to their selection and preparation. Anyone who has looked at but not been able to decipher some of the visual aids at AAG and other meetings knows that often so-called "visual aids" are neither visual nor an aid. Many geographers fail to consider the problem of legibility and effectiveness. Three simple rules to follow might be:

1. *Make it legible.* It should be assumed that the majority of the audience will not have perfect vision. With 20–40 vision, at a distance of 20 feet a little under one inch is the smallest lettering that can be read; at 40 feet approximately two inches is the minimum dimension. An easy rule is that the title should occupy from 1/4 to 1/3 of the slide. Style and size of lettering, and weight and variety of line should be carefully considered. Black and white patterns often do not project well, too coarse and too fine patterns being special problems. Tones acquired by the use of gray paper, tape or air brush are more successful.

2. *Keep it simple.* Tables and maps suitable for publication are seldom suitable for presentation via slides. Simplified and legible tables, graphs and maps can be true aids; complicated ones, even if relatively legible, may be useless. Diagrammatic and bold presentation is the most effective.

3. *Use color.* Too few geographers take advantage of the value of using colors on maps and graphs to create quick impressions or emphasize special points. Colored plastic tapes and papers can be utilized easily and quickly to make slides more effective. Use of color film for *all* slides not only facilitates use of colors but also produces better slides of illustrations lacking color.

Geographers who do not use visual aids are missing an important medium of presentation. However, there is a growing objection to the all-too-frequent inadequacy or actual failure of visual aids. It was recommended that the Panel be expanded for the 1958 meetings, and that attendance be compulsory!

(Summary by Elizabeth Eiselen)

Utilization of Geography and Geographers in Corporation Research. Nicholas J. Schmidt, The Glenn L. Martin Co., presiding. Panelists: J. Edwin Becht, University of Houston, Consultant to the Houston Lighting and Power Co.; Harold R. Imus, Eastern Division Manager, Larry Smith and Co., Real Estate Consultants; Melvin R. Walsh, Staff Analyst, Crane Co.; I. Jay Warren, Industrial Representative, The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Co.; and J. William Waters, Staff Geographer, Chrysler Corp.

Each panelist gave a brief résumé of the positions of geographers in his company and the kinds of geographic research conducted. This research included product market analysis, capital investment analysis, business and industrial location, general area or regional analysis, cartographic and statistical presentation, physical environment research as related to product design, and operations research techniques as applied to evaluation of military weapons systems.

General discussion indicated that:

1. Business men might become more familiar with the training and services of geographers if articles on geographic research were prepared for business publications.

2. Most geographers in business do not have geographers' titles, but many are considered geographers by their employers and associates.

3. There should be greater use of specialized cartographic aids in presenting results of research to business audiences.

4. Geographers in business should carry their research through to the point of making recommendations, unless they are specifically directed to do less or the problem involves no decision making. For some types of research, the geographer can carry his contribution into the planning and scheduling stages of a problem solution.

Approximately 100 copies of panel members' presentations have been distributed to geographers requesting them.

(Condensed from a summary by Nicholas Schmidt)

A Geographic Classification of Mass-Wasting. Clark N. Crain, University of Denver, presiding. Panelists: James A. Barnes, University of Georgia; and Walter F. Wood, Quartermaster Research & Development Center.

Growing interest among geologists and engineers in the phenomena of mass-wasting coincides with a resurgence of interest in geomorphology among geographers. Recent attempts to refine some of the classifications of mass-wasting in terms more meaningful for geographers have elicited a surprising response, including some lively arguments, a sure sign of a healthy increase of interest.

Present efforts on classification of mass-wasting employ terms common to the systems based exclusively on process, but attempt to apply to the resultant groupings recognizable landscape characteristics in terms of the *results* of the wasting. This is in contrast to the geological classifications which are concerned with the recognition solely in terms of process.

The 7 groups recognized so far are made up of phenomena *resulting from:*

I. Channeled Movement contrasted with Free Movement
II. High Angle Movement contrasted with Low Angle Movement
III. Rapid Movement contrasted with Slow Movement

IV. Local, Limited Movement contrasted with Widespread, General Movement
V. Dry Movement contrasted with Wet Movement
VI. Slumping Movement contrasted with Sliding Movement
VII. Vertical Heaving contrasted with Vertical Settling

Terminology is similar to that used by geologists and classification terms are similar to those used by C. F. Stewart Sharpe (*Landslides and Related Phenomena*, 1938). The main distinction lies in the objective of the classification, since this new approach is not concerned with process, except as it may offer a clue to the resulting landscape type.

Within each of these groups, geographic characteristics can be recognized for the two contrasting conditions. It has been possible also to evaluate these features in terms of use. For example, problems involved in features resulting from channeled movements are much more predictable in regards to desirability of building sites than are problems resulting from free movement.

It is hoped that the interest expressed will lead to the development of a better descriptive terminology and a more precise system. Sharpe and others are confusing when their systems are applied to geographic problems of the landscape. This does not prevent us from borrowing what is useful in developing a system of our own.

Other discussions in geomorphology have grown out of the problems of classification. The regolith may function somewhat like a liquid, subject, imperfectly, to the laws of hydraulics. If so, this would open up a vast field for consideration of the physical geographer. In fact, considerable evidence has been collected to raise doubts about some classical concepts of the retreat of slopes. While well-founded objections have been raised to the theory of hydraulic movement, the problem is still being studied as it may apply to establishing a whole new theory of the retreat of slope. One of the factors encouraging this study is the differences in rates, types and processes that appear to be involved between the retreat of a convex headland and the retreat of a concave valley head of equal slope and height and similar material and vegetative cover.

Disagreement has arisen concerning an attempt to present general relations between slope and vegetative type. It is suggested that statistical evidence shows a close correlation between forests and moderate slope, grasslands and low slope, and drylands and high slope. This has been denied, strong disagreement having been expressed with the concept. Until clear definitions of terms are agreed upon, it appears that it will be difficult to reconcile the points of view.

At least some of the differences noted in comparing physical landscapes of areas in different climatic zones appear to be the result of differences in the rate, type and extent of mass-wasting. This factor is complicated by the influences of vegetation on surface mass-wasting.

Some discussion developed on the peneplane concept. There seems to be growing evidence that many areas with accordant summits formerly called peneplanes, were not planated by stream erosion. One example is found in the Georgia Piedmont. Although the stream erosion concept has been ably defended, further careful study and discussion on this concept should prove rewarding.

(Summary by Clark N. Crain)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

DR. SAUER RECEIVES VEGA MEDAL

Carl O. Sauer was awarded the Vega Medal by the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography. The Medal was presented by the King of Sweden on April 24, 1957. Dr. Sauer is the fourth American to receive this honor since it was initiated in 1880 for A. E. Nordenskiöld on his return from the Northeast Passage. It has been awarded 45 times, at first mainly to explorers, later to oceanographers, Pleistocene geologists, and gradually more to academic geographers. Congratulations, Dr. Sauer.

TEXTBOOK DESIGN AWARD

The widely known and used *Introductory Economic Geography* by L. E. Klimm, O. P. Starkey, J. A. Russell, and V. English, now in its third edition published by Harcourt, Brace and Co., Inc., New York, 1956, was named one of the Fifty Best Designed Textbooks of the Year by a committee of the American Institute of Graphic Arts. This is a well deserved tribute to the authors and publisher.

GEOGRAPHIC MATERIALS NEEDED

Books and other materials of the Geography Department, Ryukyus University, Okinawa, were destroyed in a fire which swept the university library last October. Gifts of geography books to the library will be welcomed. These can be mailed direct to Chief, M.S.U. Mission, Ryukyus Un. Project, UCAR, CI&E Dept., APO 331, % Postmaster, San Francisco, California, or sent to Department of Geography, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, from where they will be forwarded.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN JAPAN 1957

Tokyo and Nara will be the sites of a Regional Conference of the IGU to be held from August 29 to September 3, 1957. The Conference is organized by the International Geographical Union and the Science Council of Japan. The program will include papers in a variety of geographic fields, geographic and cartographic exhibits and excursions to various parts of Japan. Pre-Conference and post-Conference excursions of from 7–10 days are planned. A symposium on Southeast Asia will be held during the Conference.

Additional information may be obtained from the Secretariat of the Organizing Committee of the IGU Regional Conference, Science Council of Japan, Ueno Park, Tokyo, Japan.

NEWS FROM GEOGRAPHIC CENTERS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

The departmental faculty now consists of fourteen full-time members, with two of these absent on leave during the spring semester. Total course enrollment is running about 1,500 students per semester. About forty undergraduate majors, one of our lowest figure in some years, is balanced by about the same number of graduate students in current resident status. Of the graduates about 25 are M.A. candidates, with the balance being doctoral candidates in some stage of completion of their programs. The department has now awarded nine doctoral degrees in geography and sixty-five Master's degrees, with the latest additions to the list. Perhaps another four or five Master's degrees and about an equal number of doctoral degrees will be completed by the summer of 1957. Two new courses were introduced in the fall semester of 1956, one being a course on the Middle East, and the other being an advanced undergraduate course in the Geography of Arid Lands. The latter is a cooperative effort by all staff members interested in the problems of arid lands.

Two new regular members were added to the staff during the fall of 1956, one of them filling a new position, the other being a replacement for a retiring member. Richard E. Dahlberg came from Southern Illinois University to take charge of the program in cartography. Tom Lee McKnight came from the University of Texas, and teaches physical and economic geography.

Henry M. Leppard, after two years of teaching cartography, "retired" from active teaching for the time being. He and Mrs. Leppard are remaining in Los Angeles, and Dr. Leppard holds an appointment as Research Associate in the department. Ruth E. Baugh retired from our department as of June 30, 1956, her teaching career in the department having spanned the whole development of the university from its normal school days.

Henry J. Bruman spent the year 1956–57 in Europe and in Brazil concerned with problems of colonial settlement in South America. He will become Chairman of the Department of Geography on July 1, 1957. H. L. Kostanick was one of those awarded a summer grant for 1956, and spent August and part of September in Czechoslovakia and Poland. C. H. MacFadden has finally returned to the department, after spending three academic years as Chairman of the Department of Geography, University of Ceylon, during which time he planned for and moved Geography into a new building. The MacFadden itinerary between Ceylon and California covered most of Europe, and included a month in Soviet Russia. Richard Logan, and family, are in Southwest Africa on a sabbatical leave for the year 1956–57, with the address: Poste Restante, Windhoek, Southwest Africa. Dr. Logan is studying various problems in comparative geography of the arid land margins. Joseph E. Spencer is serving his last year as Chairman of the department. He expects to be based on Singapore during a sabbatical leave in 1957–58. Benjamin E. Thomas will be on sabbatical leave in east Africa during the fall semester of 1957–58. C. M. Zierer went on a year's sabbatical leave which began in February 1957 and will terminate in January 1958. He plans to spend his time roaming around Anglo-America this time.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Eugene Mather, formerly of the University of Georgia, will join the faculty in geography at Minnesota in July. Professor Mather will continue his work in

agricultural geography and the regional geography of Anglo-America. Work in those fields was formerly under the direction of John C. Weaver, who will become Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Nebraska in June.

Philip W. Porter joined the staff at the beginning of the winter quarter upon completion of his doctoral work at the London School of Economics. His doctoral dissertation was a study of land use and population in Liberia. The study involved field work and air photo interpretation. Dr. Porter is offering courses in cartography and air photo interpretation as well as the regional geography of Africa.

Jan O. M. Broek participated in a recent symposium on Population Problems held at this university. Professor Broek will lecture at Columbia University this summer. He continues to work up the results of his recent field work in Borneo, and he presented a paper on this subject at the AAG meetings. Fred E. Lukermann's paper, "People and the Land in the Middle East," was published as part of the symposium on Problems of the Middle East held at the University during the summer of 1956. A study titled "The Long-Range Outlook for Energy Resources in the Upper Midwest," by John Borchert, was published by the University of Minnesota's Social Science Research Center as part of a recent symposium on the economic future of Minnesota, sponsored by the Center.

McMASTER UNIVERSITY

The department has at present 22 students enrolled in the Honours Geography course and 3 graduate students. Theses of students graduating in 1957 include studies of Amabel Township, the Town of Burlington and the Hamilton Harbour.

L. G. Reeds, Chairman of the Department, is adapting for publication his thesis on the Agricultural Geography of Southern Ontario. He is also Vice Chairman of the Hamilton–Wentworth Planning Area Board. In the summer of 1956 he taught at the University of British Columbia.

H. A. Wood, as Chairman of the Education Committee of the Canadian Association of Geographers, has compiled and distributed to teachers a list of air photos and maps depicting landforms and regions of Canada. He is completing research on the regional geography of northern Haiti.

H. R. Thompson, as Chairman of the Southern Ontario Division of the CAG, organized and chaired the annual meeting of the Division, held at McMaster on January 26, 1957. Members of the McMaster Geography Club acted as hosts and co-sponsors for the meeting. In terms of attendance, this was the most successful professional geographers' meeting ever held in Canada; over 150 were present for the papers and nearly 90 attended the evening banquet. The program was a symposium on "Northern Canada Today." Seven invited papers were given in morning and afternoon sessions. Geoffrey Hattersley–Smith delivered the banquet address. Dr. Thompson is at present engaged in research on the relations between the exploration and the political geography of Antarctica. During the summer of 1956 he taught at the University of British Columbia.

A. G. Macpherson joined the staff in the fall of 1956. He holds the M.A. degree from Edinburgh University, and his doctoral thesis on Social and Economic Development of the Forfeited Estates in the Scottish Highlands, 1748–1784, is in its final stages. Before coming to McMaster he taught for three years at St. Andrews.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The department was authorized to grant the Ph.D. degree in Geography beginning with the fall term 1956. There are currently three Ph.D. candidates enrolled. In addition, there are twelve graduate students taking work at the Master's level.

Allen K. Philbrick, Associate Professor, and Charles W. Boas, Instructor, have been added to the staff beginning with the current academic year. Dr. Philbrick joins the department from the University of Chicago to handle work in cartography, urban regional geography, and field techniques. Dr. Boas, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1956, is specializing in aerial photo interpretation, Australia and the Pacific, and map intelligence. He is also handling the summer field work in geography.

Robert S. Vogel, who received his Master's degree from this department, has been appointed as a half-time instructor.

Edward C. Prophet spent the summer of 1956 as a Visiting Professor at Western Washington College, Bellingham, Washington. He is a member of the State Education Curriculum Committee on "Living in the Air Age" and has published material concerning the work of this committee in the Michigan Education Association Journal.

Paul C. Morrison returned for the fall term after spending a year in Japan under a Fulbright Lectureship. He lectured on the Geography of the Americas at Ochanomizu University and Tokyo Education University. Dr. Morrison's return trip by way of Southern Asia and Europe completed an around the world journey. He engaged in research on Japanese viticulture which is currently being completed.

The department is participating in an Interdisciplinary Seminar with Social Science departments at M.S.U. The topics for the current year are "Relations between Japan, Philippines, and United States" and "World colonialism, especially as developed in Africa." Professor Paul C. Morrison is the department representative.

Staff research activities include: Charles W. Boas, concentration of the American automobile industry; Paul C. Morrison, population of Costa Rica; Allen K. Philbrick, field work in urbanization of southern Michigan and the Chicago region; Edward C. Prophet, recreational geography in Michigan; Lawrence M. Sommers, aspects of the geography of Scandinavia; and Clarence L. Vinge, a textbook on "Introductory Economic Geography" and an article on geographic methodology with L. M. Sommers.

The department will again offer field geography at the Michigan State University Biological Station near Battle Creek, Michigan, during the six weeks session from June 24 to August 2. Both undergraduate and graduate courses will be conducted by Dr. Boas. A detailed brochure is available upon request to the department.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Arthur H. Robinson continues as department chairman. Kirk H. Stone is in residence this year following a year's study of frontier settlement in Scandinavia as a Fulbright Scholar. His headquarters were at Oslo, Norway. In addition to the work in Scandinavia, he visited and lectured at geographic centers in northwestern Europe and the British Isles. His research on frontier settlements in Northern Lands is in addition to his work on a text on air photo interpretation. Glenn T. Trewartha and Richard Hartshorne are on research leave during semester II, 1957–58. Dr. Trewartha is continuing his research on population

geography, including new population maps of Central America, and a book on anomalous climates of the earth. Dr. Hartshorne is working on a book on the foundations and problems of international relations. John Morrison is Visiting Professor during the second semester 1956–57. He is offering a course and seminar on the geography of the Soviet Union.

Andrew H. Clark has been appointed editor of the new Monograph Series of the Association of American Geographers. He recently gave a series of lectures on historical geography at the University of Toronto and a lecture and seminar at the University of Michigan. He has completed work on a book on the historical geography of Prince Edward Island and is well advanced on a second book, on Nova Scotia.

Richard Hartshorne presented the William O. Blanchard Lecture at the University of Illinois, as well as lectures at the Universities of Michigan and Indiana. He presented a paper at the Conference on the State and Economic Growth at New York City. He is Chairman of the American Association of University Professors Committee on Faculty Participation in University Government. He attended the annual meetings of the AAUP in St. Louis as representative of the University of Wisconsin chapter.

John Alexander's course in elementary economic geography was broadcast over the State of Wisconsin radio station WHA during the first semester. Henry Sterling's course on the geography of the Mediterranean and the Near East is being broadcast during the second semester. During the eight-week summer session work will be offered on Anglo-America, Scandinavia, the Northern Lands, economic geography, agricultural geography and urban geography by Professors Alexander, Stone, and Olmstead. Dr. Olmstead is currently conducting research on orchard and vineyard regions and is investigating the geography of agriculture through the study of operational units. Dr. Hammond is continuing his study of procedures in the descriptive analysis of terrain. Dr. Alexander is conducting research on freight rate regions, methods of measuring manufacturing, international trade and classification of cities in terms of their economic bases.

Henry S. Sterling is currently working on the dynamics of populations and agricultural land use in Venezuela and the current revolution in agricultural occupance in less developed parts of the humid tropical lowlands of Latin America. Part II of the interdisciplinary study of the Venezuela Andes, which was prepared under his direction, was published during 1956. It is entitled "Problemas Economicos y Sociales de los Andes Venezolanos." Arthur Robinson's article "Mapping the Land" appeared in *Scientific Monthly* in 1956 and he is continuing his research on correlation of geographic distributions.

A revision of Finch and Trewartha *Elements of Geography* has been completed by Professors Finch, Trewartha, Robinson, and Hammond. It should be available this spring.

ILLINOIS GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

The Illinois Geographical Society's winter meeting at Chicago included a tour through the Merchandize Mart, a session on high school textbooks, and a lecture on "Egypt and the Suez" by John A. Wilson, Professor of Egyptology at the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago. An illustrated lecture on "People and Economy of Siam" was given by Helen Smith at the dinner meeting.

For two years IGS has worked closely with the Illinois Council of Social Studies. At the ICSS October meeting held at the University of Chicago IGS sponsored a section on "Geographic Salesmanship in the Community." The April ICSS meeting at Northwestern University on "Trends in the Fields of the

Social Studies for the Past Ten Years" also had a section arranged by IGS. This section featured Herbert Gross speaking on "New Viewpoints in Geography."

The final IGS meeting of the year was held at Illinois State Normal University on May 3–4. The officers for 1957–58 were elected and installed.

LETTERS . . . . .

Dear Editor:

In the immediate wake of the Association's Annual Meeting there are three procedures which, in the opinion of this member, would improve the annual convention.

1. The number of papers in any one session should be restricted to four. Brains tire rapidly at a convention. It simply is too exhausting to sit through a long series of papers. If a paper is worth delivering it should give birth to some discussion. But members of the audience are reluctant to speak when time is crowded with a large number of papers. Rather than delay the proceedings, some of us simply sit still. When a session is devoted to only a few stimulating papers with ample time for comment, a very profitable session results (e.g. the nodal region meeting which had only two scheduled papers).

2. No speaker should be allowed more than twenty minutes. Excess time for the speech robs the time available for discussion. This member feels that discussions at our meetings are too valuable to be sacrificed for lengthy deliveries. Surely a scholar can present at least one new idea in twenty minutes. Excessively long papers place subsequent speakers at a disadvantage. This is particularly unfortunate when fledgeling researchers, making their first appearance at an annual meeting are scheduled near the end of a session only to find the audience worn out, or heading for the corridors, after preceding speakers have gone overtime. Let's establish a time limit and insist that chairmen enforce it.

3. The banquet and main address comprise the psychological climax to the convention and should be the final events. Sessions scheduled for "the morning after" are bedeviled by an anticlimax atmosphere and a shrunken attendance, because the exodus begins early that morning.

John W. Alexander
University of Wisconsin

THE NATURE OF GEOGRAPHY

RICHARD HARTSHORNE

Published by
The Association of American Geographers
Fifth Printing

Copies may be obtained from the Central Office of the AAG, The Library of Congress, Washington 25, D.C. The price is $2.00 *plus* 20¢ for handling in the United States, *or* 25¢ for handling in other countries. In order to aid students, as in the past, this volume is sold at cost, with no royalties to the author.

PERSONAL NEWS

J. LEWIS ROBINSON is on leave this academic year from the Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, while he is Visiting Professor of Canadian Geography in the newly formed Canadian Studies Program at the University of Rochester. His courses at the UBC are being given by Eugene "Cotton" Mather, formerly of the University of Georgia. J. Ross Mackay is Acting Chairman of the UBC Geography Department in Dr. Robinson's absence.

ALBERT S. CHAPMAN, formerly Assistant Professor of Geography at Ohio University, has accepted the position of Geographic Attaché with the Department of State to be assigned to New Delhi, India.

NICHOLAS J. SCHMIDT is now working for the Glenn L. Martin Co., Baltimore, in the Weapons Systems Evaluation Section. His home address is 1111 Longbrook Rd., Lutherville, Md. He used to be with the Office of The Quartermaster General.

CURTIS M. WILSON, Professor of Social Science (Geography) at Hartnell College, Salinas, California, spent the first summer session of 1956 at the University of California, Berkeley, on a grant-in-aid for studies on the Far East. Then he was temporarily assigned to the faculty of the Sixth Army Area Intelligence School at Camp Roberts, California. He was recently appointed to the Advisory Committee on the Social Sciences of the California Junior College Association.

ALDEN CUTSHALL, University of Illinois in Chicago, will be on sabbatical (1957–58) for teaching and research at the Institute of Asian Studies, University of the Philippines.

RUBEN L. PARSON, East Tennessee State College, recently spent two weeks on active duty at the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

SAMUEL T. EMORY died on March 6, 1957 at the age of 60. He was born in Chase City, Virginia, and took his undergraduate work at Randolph–Macon College. He received his Master's degree from Columbia University, and later went to the University of Chicago where he was awarded the Ph.D. in 1939. Dr. Emory joined the staff of the Department of Geology and Geography at the University of North Carolina in 1933, and was appointed Chairman of the Department in 1951 in which position he served with distinction.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Marine Climatic Atlas of the World, Vol. II "North Pacific Ocean," U. S. Navy. For sale by the Supt. of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. July 1, 1956. xviii and 275 pp. of charts. $8.00.

Factual, up-to-date, quantitative information on the climates of the Pacific Ocean north of the equator is graphically presented in this Atlas. The emphasis is on frequency distribution of the basic climatic elements, the data being presented in graphs, tables and isopleths on a standard base chart. These data have been collected from 9 locations in the North Pacific, from transient ships' logs and from 13 coastal and island locations, and represent the co-operative efforts of mariners and weather stations of many nations.

There are two sections to the Atlas; surface and upper air. The surface sections contains monthly charts individually portraying surface winds, gales, visibility, low visibility, precipitation, cloudiness, wind-visibility-cloudiness, ceiling and visibility, temperature, wet bulb temperature, low temperature, and sea level pressure and storm tracks. Quarterly charts show air-sea temperature difference and low pressure centers. The charts also indicate the limit of sea ice.

All the charts in the radiosonde and upper air section are on a quarterly basis. These charts show wind aid, wind retard, wind roses, height of pressure surface, and temperature and humidity for 850 m b, 700 m b, 500 m b, 300 m b, and 200 m b. There are also quarterly charts of modified refraction index, inversions, height of tropopause, height of freezing level and potential aircraft icing.

Volume I, "North Atlantic Ocean," was published Nov. 1, 1955. Other volumes will be issued to complete the coverage of the oceans of the world.

The Russian Struggle for Power: 1914–1917, C. Jay Smith, Jr. Philosophical Library. New York. 1956. xv and 553 pp. $4.75.

The farther we are removed from the eventful years of World War I, the less excited and more sober and unbiased we become in passing judgment on causes and results of that gigantic conflict. Much has been said and written on every phase of that war. However, every time a new study of power politics during those years appears in print, it again arouses our unending interest and curiosity.

World War I was the last global conflict in the history of mankind in which the main driving forces were national aspirations and desires for aggrandizement at the expense of neighboring states, based on purely national interests. This war, as a result, unleashed new forces, new concepts of conflicts, which found their basis in ideological differences. Instead of national interests as the basis for conflict, ideologies provided fuel for warfare: class hatreds, ideas of racial superiority, and genocide. All these culminated in World War II.

This book of Professor Smith deals with power politics, mainly the efforts of the Russian Imperial Government to steer the ship of state among its rivals, the other Great Powers, in order to achieve a more favorable position in the world. The diplomacy of World War I was the vestige of the traditional skillful game of diplomacy in which national interests played the major role.

It is exciting reading in following page by page, event by event, the history of those terrible years, which virtually shook the world and toppled three mighty empires of Europe. The author painstakingly describes not the movements of mighty armies of millions of men back and forth on the chessboard of Europe,

but the behind-the-scene skillful game of Allied and neutral powers diplomats, who never forgot their national aspirations and rivalries vis-a-vis their allies of the day.

Political geographers would enjoy reading about plans to redraw the map of the world, the ease with which foreign ministers of Great Powers moved borders on the map, chopping off or adding huge slices of territory, creating new states, partitioning and distributing lands of not-yet defeated Turkey or Austria–Hungary, as well as re-apportioning the far flung German colonies in the far-away Pacific. How simple it seemed then, for bargaining purposes, to demand Syria, Armenia or Palestine in exchange for Constantinople, and then to give up the city of Smyrna or Haifa.

In reading this book, a thought comes to the reader's mind: how different the world would have been at the end of World War I, if the Russian Revolution had not interfered and thrown a monkey wrench into international plans and agreements. Imperial Russia was to receive Constantinople and surrounding area, the Bosporus, Sea of Marmora, and the shores of the Dardanelles; Turkey was to be partitioned; the Arab lands to be divided between England and France, with a few independent Arab states to be created.

The book is interesting and brings forth a wealth of factual information, and, in general, the material is well arranged. It is unfortunate, however, that the author occasionally employs expressions more suitable for sensational historical novels. In this scholarly book of a serious nature, which is definitely a contribution to our knowledge of those eventful years, references to the Russian Empress, such as "his glassy-eyed wife . . ." (p. 4) or "half-demented women, like Empress Alexandra . . ." (p. 407) seem rather out-of-place and anachronistic. Perhaps such statements would be more suitable in memoirs of contemporaries who had a personal contact with the persons described in the book.

—Victor P. Petrov

Status of Topographic Mapping in the United States, 7th Edition. U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. January 1957.

This index, which is published annually, shows the status of topographic and planimetric quadrangle maps produced by the Geological Survey and other Federal agencies. Mapping in progress is also shown. Copies of this index, state indexes, and further information concerning current projects, availability of maps, aerial photographs, geodetic control data and advance map materials can be obtained from the Map Information Office, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington 25, D. C.

The Future of Arid Lands. Gilbert F. White, editor. Publication No. 43. American Association for the Advancement of Science. Washington. 1956. ix and 453 pp. illust. $6.75 ($5.75 to AAAS and AGS members).

This volume contains papers and recommendations from the International Arid Lands Meetings held in New Mexico, April 26 – May 4, 1955, under the auspices of the AAAS and with financial support by the National Science Foundation, UNESCO, and local business groups. A public symposium was arranged around a few key problems, with invited papers on the status of present knowledge and needed research, and with summaries by the chairmen at the end of each session. Invited participants from several disciplines and countries brought a wide range of experience and viewpoint.

Some of the broad problems covered were water budget, plant and animal breeding and selection, water use priorities, regional resource integration,

translating scientific findings into action, and the significance of social institutions and attitudes. It is a thought-provoking book resulting from an evidently successful conference. While many contributed to that end, special credit is due to Gilbert F. White as its chief architect.

——Meredith F. Burrill

Rural Settlement Patterns in the United States as Illustrated on One Hundred Topographic Quadrangle Maps. Publication No. 380. National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council, Washington 25, D. C. 1956. 52 pp. $1.50.

This is a welcome and useful tool for the study and teaching of details of cultural geography. After a frontispiece map of cultural regions, a six-page introduction and a two-page reference list of cultural and agricultural region maps of the U. S., the body of the publication is devoted to descriptions of each of the 100 maps tentatively selected to illustrate the 34 regions delimited on the frontispiece map.

The Committee that prepared the report faced many problems. The first charge to the Committee called for a set of quads to illustrate cultural geography. This it could not do, for the collective knowledge of the profession does not yet suffice for identification and delineation of the cultural regions of the United States; nor does that of the sister disciplines. Even rural settlement patterns constitute a large order, and the map used, one of rural cultural regions prepared by A. R. Mangus and published by the Department of Agriculture in 1940, appears not to be ideally suited to the problem.

The virtues and shortcomings of a committee product are likely to be exaggerated in a volume that deals with the minutiae of regions. The descriptions of the maps understandably vary considerably in content and in contribution to understanding of the patterns shown. Comments on toponymy have been included for several maps, apparently as a holdover from the original plan, since there is rarely any attempt to connect the geographic names with the settlement patterns. This is perhaps unfortunate, for most of the statements about the names contain inaccuracies, whereas the comments on the patterns and their physical settings appear to have a high degree of validity.

The drafting of a report such as this is only possible by a committee effort, but the Committee has wisely indicated that refinement should come from the many members of the profession who are thoroughly and intimately familiar with the culture represented visibly on the individual sheets, in order that the publication may ultimately represent the sum of American geographers' knowledge and understanding of American cultural geography.

The fundamental task is, of course, the identification and delimitation of the United States cultural geography regions and subregions that are to be illustrated. The rapid appearance of excellent new quadrangle maps, many in areas previously unmapped or inadequately mapped, should greatly facilitate the continual revision of this publication. The Committee is to be commended for its start; it is to be hoped that the Association will go on from there.

——Meredith F. Burrill

A World Geography of Forest Resources. Edited for the American Geographical Society by Stephen Haden-Guest, John K. Wright and Eileen M. Teclaff. The Ronald Press Co. New York. 1956. xviii and 736 pp. illust. $12.50.

Geographers will welcome this newest addition to the other fine publications of the American Geographical Society. It serves not only as a companion volume to *World Geography of Petroleum* and as a much needed successor to

Zon and Sparhawk's long out of print *Forest Resources of the World,* but as the most up-to-date and comprehensive reference on forests, their products and uses, regional distribution, management policies, and their relations to the environment and to man. Contributions from leading specialists from various countries provide critical and accurate new information and an abundance of detail skillfully organized and liberally illustrated and documented. Twenty-five chapters are devoted to regional analyses and descriptions of forest resources, utilization and problems. These are introduced by five chapters presenting the world-wide aspects of forests, such as their history, the place of forests in the landscape and their relations to climate and soils, forestry practices, and economic products. The final chapter is a careful appraisal of the present world forest situation and a projection of current trends into the future in a frank and forceful forecast.

The Centennial Review. Branford P. Millar, editor. Issued by the College of Science and Arts, Michigan State University. $3.00 per year.

Winter 1957 is the first issue of this quarterly magazine and it amply reflects the high aims and admirable policies set for the publication. Within the flexible framework of its objective "to present articles in the several disciplines of the liberal arts in such a manner that the achievements and implications of specialized scholarship may be disseminated to readers in a wide range of fields," *The Centennial Review* promises to promote scholarly interchange among the branches of natural, physical and social sciences. Geographers should find especially rewarding the articles on the state of knowledge in the various sciences and the relations between disciplines.

The first issue offers a most appetizing taste of what promises in future issues to be a continuing flavor of particular appeal to geographers. Four of the papers presented in 1955 at the Michigan State University Symposium on "The New View of Man" are included in the issue. In readable fashion they put forward provocative and instructive ideas of man in his physical, social and biological environment which have both broad and specific applications to the field of geography.

Location and Space-Economy. Walter Isard. Technology Press of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and John Wiley and Sons, Inc. New York. 1956. xix and 350 pp. illust. $8.75.

Walter Isard has written a truly important book. Some geographers will like it very much; others will not. Those interested in an economic geography that can draw freely upon economic theory will applaud this work. Isard's concept of transport inputs and other related spatial concepts afford a means of drawing geography and economics together into an analytical economic geography.

Virtually every important work of earlier contributers to location theory is considered critically. Many important empirical mathematical regularities concerning the relations of economic phenomena and distance are examined. Isard has used an historical survey approach in the first part of his work for two reasons. First, it serves as a text for a beginning student who is fortunate in having such an able guide in his conducted tour of the earlier literature. Isard assumes no prior knowledge of location theory on the part of the reader. His careful consideration of the German contributors whose works are not generally available in English is alone enough to make this a valuable book. Secondly, Isard has used the historical reference framework as a means of introducing the concepts of others that he has found useful in conjunction with his own original contributions in producing a synthesis which yields a general location theory.

——William Warntz

Turkish Resettlement of Bulgarian Turks 1950-53. H. Louis Kostanick. University of California Publications in Geography, Vol. 8, No. 2, University of California Press, Berkeley, California. 1957. 100 pp. illust.

This excellent publication contains an exhaustive discussion of the topic, including the historical, geographical, ethnographical and ideological background. Though stressing the fact that the expulsion of the Turks from Bulgaria was essentially an act in the Cold War, and though thoroughly sympathetic to the Turks ---expellees as well as those in Turkey---the author does full justice to the roots of the anti-Turkish feeling throughout the Balkans, dating back to the centuries of Turkish domination and misrule. The most valuable part of the booklet seems to be the clear exposition of the factors which made resettlement a psychologically and socially unqualified success. This deserves careful attention in view of the residual antagonism between resettlers and old inhabitants in other countries, even in cases where economic integration succeeded. Mass expulsion did not solve the minority problem in Bulgaria. About three-quarters of the Turkish population are still in Bulgaria, helpless victims of Communist experimentation.

---Eric Fischer

Affable Savages. Francis Huxley. The Viking Press. New York. 1957. 285 pp. illust. $4.75.

The Urubu Indians, who prefer being called *cambo* or *camara*, inhabit the middle reaches of the Gurupi River in northeast Brazil. Both their location and their culture lies somewhere between the Brazilianized coastal area and the nomad Guajaja Indians of inland Maranhao. The culture of these primitive and vanishing Indians is the subject of this popularly written and informative book. The author, a young English anthropologist, twice visited the Urubus, living in their villages, talking with the young and old, participating in their activities and gleaning a wealth of detail about their way of life, their magic and beliefs, social customs and practices. Much of the story of these people is told in anecdotes, in their own excessively unvarnished words. As the author relates his day-to-day experiences, the gossip and the stories, the picture of these Tupi-speaking, supposedly ex-cannibalistic Urubus is skillfully drawn.

Economic Regions of the United States: The South. M. E. Polovitskaia. Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., Scientific Research Institute of Geography. The State Geographic Press, Moscow. 1956. 508 pp. illust.

The principal topics are natural conditions, population, economic conditions, industry, agriculture, transportation, sub-regions and cities. There is a bibliography of 16 pages and a large folded map of the United States inserted in the back cover. The book, which is in the Russian language, was prepared for use by geographers and emphasis is given to the historical growth, development, changes and trends in agriculture, industry, population and economy. The preface states that Soviet geographers are intensively studying the United States, in this case, the South, for a better understanding between the two nations and for world peace.

---Nicholas Bauer

Economic Survey of Europe in 1956. Research and Planning Division, UN Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva. 1957. 350 pp. $2.50.

The survey contains information on the current economic developments in eastern and western Europe, long-term plans, marketing systems, transport problems and changes in the structure of production. It is available at the UN Bookstore and the Columbia University Press.

Statistical Yearbook. UN Statistical Office. 1957. 646 pp. $7.50 (clothbound), $6.00 (paperbound).

This eighth issue of the Yearbook presents authoritative statistics on a world-wide basis on demographic, economic, financial, social and cultural subjects generally covering a 20-year period ending 1955 or mid-1956. It is available at UN Bookstore and the Columbia University Press.

Introduction to Sweden. Ingvar Andersson and Others. The Swedish Institute, Stockholm. 1956. 4th Edition. 294 pp. illust.

This book is intended to give Americans an introductory survey of the "country and its people, its natural resources and economic life, its history and modern society" of Sweden. The first chapter on the physical and regional nature of Sweden and the second on the various segments of the Swedish economy contain the most geographical information. The book is supplemented by excellent photographs and a brief but useful statistical summary. It is a helpful introduction to various aspects of Sweden.

——Lawrence M. Sommers

Is the West Making the Grade in the Steel Industry? C. Langdon White. Business Research Series No. 8. Graduate School of Business. Stanford University, Stanford, California. 1956. 24 pp. $0.75.

The author, who has been a lifetime student of the iron and steel industry, analyzes the site and situation, resource base, and market of the integrated iron and steel centers west of the continental divide. A brief historical statement regarding the establishment and development of Geneva and Fontana is coupled with an objective look at their present status and future potentialities. A regional map showing raw material sources and transportation arteries is especially useful. A selected bibliography of thirty-five titles, as the author puts it "sifted from hundreds," should prove useful to the economic and industrial geographer.

——Arthur H. Doerr

Geography and Industries. Fu-Min Geographical Institute of Economic Development, Taipei, Taiwan, China.

In addition to *Research Reports, Crop Geography* Series, *Animal Geography* Series, *China Regional Geography* Series, *Geographical Education* Series and *World Geography* Series, the Institute is now introducing the *Geography and Industries* journal. The journal has five parts. The first part contains special Reviews, Research Fellows' Inaugural Lectures and discussions of such things as trends of geography in China and the world. The second part is a summary of original research and field survey reports. Abstracts of papers and books make up the third part. Book reviews are in the fourth part, and the fifth part is acknowledgments of gift and exchange publications. Vol. I, No. 1, July 1956, is mainly devoted to Taiwan. The text is mostly in Chinese with occasional articles in Part I in English.

Publications of the Institute are not for sale in the U.S. but are available to libraries and interested scholars who can provide geographical publications of equivalent value to the Fu-Min Geographical Institute of Economic Development, c/o National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, China. All exchange publications should be sent registered mail to insure delivery.

A Pictorial History of the American Indian. Oliver La Farge. Crown Publishers, Inc., New York. 1956. 272 pp. illust. $7.50.

This volume will be useful chiefly for its collection of pictures——about 350 of them. Photographs, sketches, engravings, and paintings from a large

numbers of sources, mostly museums, illustrate Indian artifacts, famous individuals, rites, notable events and scenes in reservation settlements. The pictures were chosen for the general reader, and the cultural geographer interested in the geographically expressive material culture of Indians will find little on such matters. Aside from a reproduction of a corner of John Smith's 1612 map, the only map is one showing the distribution of tribes in North America in 1650, modified from the Paullin Atlas. However, unlike some pictorial histories, this one contains a highly authoritative text. La Farge is a well-trained ethnologist and archeologist with a special interest in the Southwest where he actively conducts technical studies. Although he is primarily known for his semi-technical writings designed for popular consumption, his work is thoroughly accurate. A recent, well-illustrated article by La Farge which should be read in connection with this book is "Myths That Hide the American Indian," *American Heritage*, Vol. 7, No. 6, (October 1956).

Crown Publishers have issued a number of fine pictorial histories with La Farge's as their "crowning" achievement. Of the others, probably the most valuable to an historical geographer interested in the United States is the one on agriculture, Stewart Holbrook's *Down on the Farm: A Picture Treasury of Country Life in America in the Good Old Days* (1954).

---Gary S. Dunbar

Two Japanese Villages. John B. Cornell and Robert J. Smith. University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies, Occasional Papers No. 5. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor. 1956. 232 pp. illust. $6.00.

Detailed studies of two *buraku*, the elementary community unit in the social structure of rural Japan, are drawn against a background of anthropological and sociological rather than geographical theory, but geographers interested in rural Japan will find the material valuable. Originally prepared as doctoral dissertations, these studies of two upland communities are largely based on field observations and personal interviews.

Smith "deals with the general picture of life" in Kurusu, a *buraku* of 18 dwellings situated in the Goto River valley about 11 miles south of Takamatsu in Kagawa Prefecture, Shikoku. Kurusu is pictured as a community exhibiting many traditional features, but also one which has been influenced by impact of the machine-age production and cash economies of distant parts of Japan and the world. Unfortunately none of the ten simple maps included provide any real indication of the *buraku's* setting or serve as bases for spatial analysis.

Cornell focuses on "social and kinship aspects of life" in Matsunagi-*buraku* located in the rolling uplands of Okayama Prefecture about 50 kilometers northwest of the city of Okayama. The author "examines by objective description and empirical analysis" such aspects as native resources and material culture, household and community organization, and external cultural relations. Two major conclusions are drawn: 1) The household is the primary unit of the *buraku*, and any aggregation of individuals not of the same household is relatively weak. 2) Social relations have a strong *residence* emphasis. The text is supplemented by maps, charts, figures and tables. It is surprising that none of the maps give any indication of terrain conditions in an area where terrain is so vital.

---John H. Thompson

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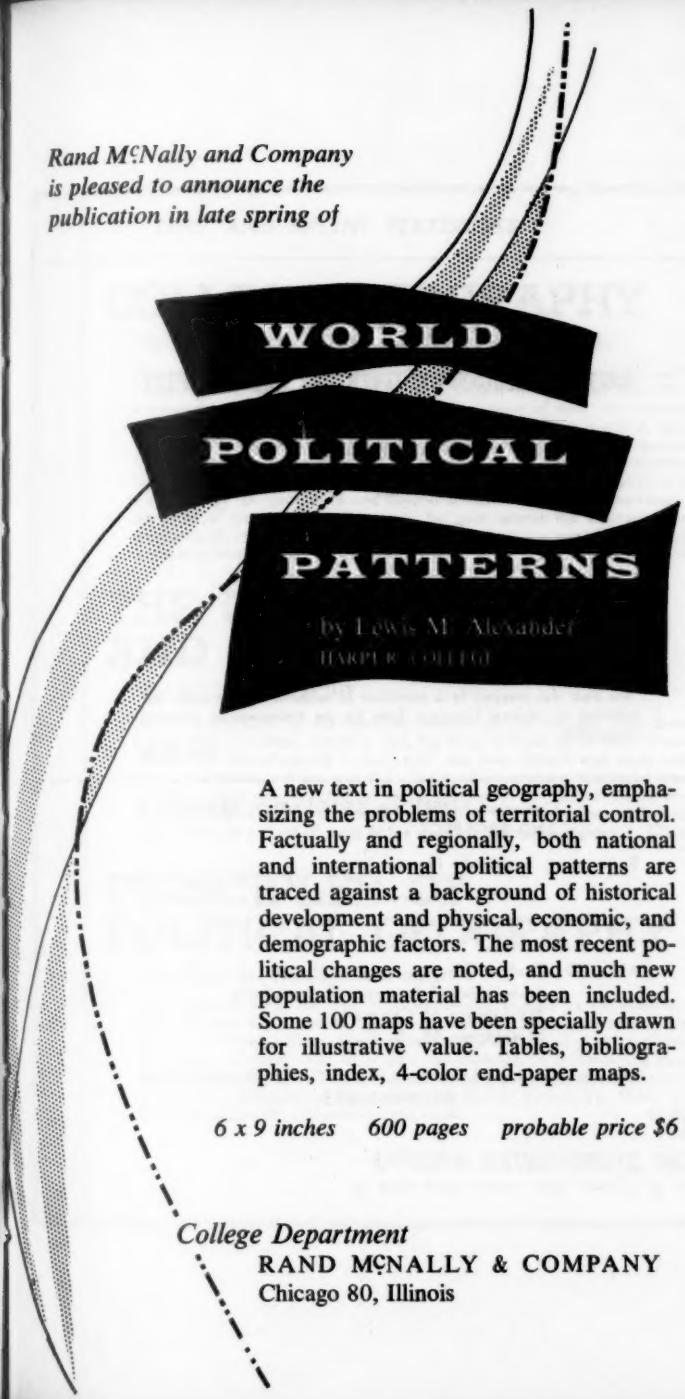

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